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On the dynamics of near-extremal black holes

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ABSTRACT: We analyse the dynamics of near-extremal Reissner-Nordström black holes in asymptotically four-dimensional Anti de Sitter space (AdS_4). We work in the spherically symmetric approximation and study the thermodynamics and the response to a probe scalar field. We find that the behaviour of the system, at low energies and to leading order in our approximations, is well described by the Jackiw-Teitelboim (JT) model of gravity. In fact, this behaviour can be understood from symmetry considerations and arises due to the breaking of time reparametrisation invariance. The JT model has been analysed in considerable detail recently and related to the behaviour of the SYK model. Our results indicate that features in these models which arise from symmetry considerations alone are more general and present quite universally in near-extremal black holes.

KEYWORDS: 2D Gravity, AdS-CFT Correspondence, Black Holes

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1 Introduction

Recently, a new class of solvable quantum mechanical models have gained considerable attention. The study of these models was initiated by Sachdev and Ye, [1], and Kitaev, [2]. Subsequently these and similar models have been discussed extensively, a partial set of references is [3–27]. We will refer to this class of models as the SYK models below. These models have the virtue of being simple enough to be exactly solvable in the large N limit, yet being rich enough to possess some highly non-trivial features of interacting systems. Most notably, real time correlations in these models are found to thermalise, and out of time order correlations were found to saturate a bound that governs the onset of chaotic behaviour.

These developments are of considerable interest from the point of view of studying black hole dynamics, [28, 29]. It has been shown that quite generally the chaos bound is satisfied by black holes [30]. A long standing puzzle in the study of black holes pertains to the information loss issue. The SYK models share some highly non-trivial features in common with black holes. In particular, as mentioned above, they saturate the chaos bound; yet these models are consistent quantum mechanical theories which should not lead to information loss.¹ One would hope that a more detailed analysis of these models could therefore help shed light on how the information loss puzzle is resolved for black holes.

In particular, one might hope that the SYK models are related to the study of near-extremal black holes, and quite a bit of recent investigation in $\text{AdS}_2/\text{CFT}_1$ correspondence has been directed to improve our understanding of the same, [31–58]. It was found that the low-energy behaviour of the SYK model is characterised by the emergence of a local conformal symmetry consisting of time-reparametrisations. This symmetry is explicitly broken since the UV degrees of freedom do not fully decouple, and is also spontaneously broken by the ground state. The resulting low-energy modes, which are the analogues of Goldstone modes, are governed by an action determined by symmetry considerations alone and their behaviour governs the low-energy dynamics of the system. In particular, it gives rise to a linear specific heat and also to out of time order correlation functions which saturate the chaos bound. This action, which involves a Schwarzian derivative of the time-reparametrisations, will be referred to as the Schwarzian action below.

It was found by [33–35, 59] that many of these properties are in fact true in a two-dimensional theory of gravity first studied by Jackiw and Teitelboim [60, 61]. The time-reparametrisation modes do arise in this model and are governed by the Schwarzian action which gives rise to a linear specific heat and the saturation of the chaos bound. We will refer to this system as the JT model below.

Near-extremal black holes are known to share some properties with the JT model. For example, their near-horizon geometry is well known to involve two-dimensional Anti-de Sitter space, AdS_2 , whose asymptotic symmetries are the time-reparametrisations referred to above. It is also well-known that analysing the excitations above extremality for these black holes requires one to retain more than the near-horizon AdS_2 region, leading to the explicit breaking of this symmetry. These similarities suggest that the lessons learnt from the study of SYK models could apply more generally for the study of these black holes.

This paper is devoted to studying this issue in more detail. In particular, we study spherically symmetric near-extremal black holes in higher dimensions and analyse their dynamics in the spherically symmetric (S -wave) sector. For concreteness we restrict ourselves to near-extremal Reissner-Nordström black holes in asymptotically AdS_4 spacetimes, and consider the simplest system, gravity coupled to a Maxwell field, where they arise.

Our main results are that the thermodynamics and the low-energy behaviour of this system is in fact well approximated by the JT model, and exhibits the breaking of time reparametrisation symmetry with a Schwarzian action. We analyse the low-energy behaviour of the system by coupling it to a probe scalar field and calculate the four-point

¹The original SYK model involves random couplings which must be averaged over. However, similar models can be formulated which are manifestly unitary without such an averaging over couplings, see [11, 13].

function at zero temperature. We find that this is well approximated, at leading order, by coupling the time reparametrisation modes to the scalar field in a manner determined by symmetry considerations, as happens in the JT model.

The paper is organised as follows. In section 2, we introduce the system of interest, consisting of Einstein gravity and the Maxwell field and analyse some of its properties, including near-extremal thermodynamics. In section 3, we introduce additional matter in the form of a scalar field, analyse the resulting 4-point scalar correlator in the four-dimensional asymptotically AdS₄ system, and take its low energy limit. In section 4, we consider the JT model and show that, for a suitable choice of parameters, it reproduces the near-extremal thermodynamics, as well as the four-point function at low energies and zero temperature. In section 5, we carry out an S-wave reduction of the Einstein-Maxwell system and show why it agrees with the JT model to leading order at low-energies. We end in section 6 with conclusions and some future directions. Appendices A, B, C, D, E, F contain important supplementary material.

Before proceeding let us mention some other important references. A thorough study of the JT model, including the first computation of the four-point function, was done by [62]. Also, the fact that the JT model correctly captures the near-extremal thermodynamics was noted by [34, 36]. An S-wave dimensional reduction from Einstein-Chern-Simons theory in AdS₃ was used to get the JT model with a gauge field in [63]. Also, [37] has elucidated various possible solutions in a 2D gravity model with a dilaton and a gauge field. Relevant works examining dimensional reduction and near-horizon physics include [64–66].

2 Spherically symmetric Reissner-Nordström black holes

In this section we analyse spherical charged black holes that arise in a theory of gravity coupled to a Maxwell field in the presence of a negative cosmological constant. The action is

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} (R - 2\Lambda) - \frac{1}{4G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}. \quad (2.1)$$

This system is well known to have the Reissner-Nordström black hole solution given by

$$ds^2 = -a(r)^2 dt^2 + a(r)^{-2} dr^2 + b(r)^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\varphi^2),$$

$$a(r)^2 = 1 - \frac{2GM}{r} + \frac{4\pi(Q_m^2 + Q_e^2)}{r^2} + \frac{r^2}{L^2}, \quad (2.2)$$

$$b(r)^2 = r^2, \quad (2.3)$$

$$F_{rt} = \frac{Q_e}{r^2}, \quad (2.4)$$

$$F_{\theta\varphi} = Q_m \sin\theta.$$

Here M, Q_e, Q_m are the mass, the electric and the magnetic charges of the black hole, and L is the AdS₄ radius,

$$L = \sqrt{\frac{3}{|\Lambda|}}. \quad (2.5)$$

This solution is manifestly spherically symmetric and preserves the SO(3) rotational symmetry.

An electromagnetic duality transformation under which

$$\begin{pmatrix} Q_m \\ Q_e \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \cos \chi & \sin \chi \\ -\sin \chi & \cos \chi \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Q_m \\ Q_e \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2.6)$$

allows one to map the general solution with both electric and magnetic charges to the purely magnetic case, where $Q_e = 0$, and keeps the metric, eq. (2.2), invariant. We will use this duality transformation to work with the purely magnetic case below.

It is easy to see that in the asymptotic region, $r \rightarrow \infty$, the metric, eq. (2.2), becomes AdS_4 ,

$$ds^2 = -\left(1 + \frac{r^2}{L^2}\right) dt^2 + \left(1 + \frac{r^2}{L^2}\right)^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2). \quad (2.7)$$

At extremality,

$$Q_m^2 = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left(r_h^2 + \frac{3r_h^4}{L^2} \right), \quad (2.8)$$

$$M_{\text{ext}} = \frac{r_h}{G} \left(1 + \frac{2r_h^2}{L^2} \right), \quad (2.9)$$

$$a^2(r) = \frac{(r - r_h)^2}{r^2 L^2} (L^2 + 3r_h^2 + 2rr_h + r^2), \quad (2.10)$$

and the temperature of the black hole vanishes. To simplify the discussion we focus henceforth on big black holes where the horizon size is much bigger than the AdS radius,

$$r_h \gg L. \quad (2.11)$$

The charge and mass are then given in terms of the horizon radius r_h by

$$Q_m^2 \simeq \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{3r_h^4}{L^2}, \quad (2.12)$$

$$M_{\text{ext}} \simeq \frac{2r_h^3}{GL^2}. \quad (2.13)$$

The near-horizon region of the extremal geometry, $r - r_h \ll r_h$, has the metric, upto $O(\frac{r-r_h}{r_h})$ corrections,

$$ds^2 = \left[-\frac{(r - r_h)^2}{L_2^2} dt^2 + \frac{L_2^2}{(r - r_h)^2} dr^2 + r_h^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2) \right]. \quad (2.14)$$

This is of the form $\text{AdS}_2 \times S^2$, where the radius of the AdS_2 and the S^2 are given by

$$R_{\text{AdS}_2} = L_2 \simeq \frac{L}{\sqrt{6}}, \quad (2.15)$$

$$R_{S^2} = r_h. \quad (2.16)$$

The asymptotic region of the AdS_2 geometry is given by

$$\frac{r - r_h}{L_2} \gg 1. \quad (2.17)$$

eq. (2.14) is a good approximation when

$$\frac{r - r_h}{r_h} \ll 1. \quad (2.18)$$

This is consistent with eq. (2.17) for a big black hole meeting eq. (2.11), $r_h \gg L$.

Let us also note that the electrically charged extremal black hole is dual to a zero-temperature state in the boundary field theory with a chemical potential μ given by

$$\mu \sim \frac{r_h}{L^2}. \quad (2.19)$$

This relation is expected from the general relation between the radial direction in gravity, r , and the energy scale E in the field theory,

$$E \sim \frac{r}{L^2}. \quad (2.20)$$

The boundary theory lives on a sphere of radius $\sim L$, and eq. (2.11) can be recast as

$$\mu \gg \frac{1}{L}. \quad (2.21)$$

The first corrections in $(\frac{r-r_h}{r_h})$ to the $\text{AdS}_2 \times \text{S}^2$ metric will also be important in the subsequent discussion. Incorporating them gives the metric,

$$ds^2 = - \frac{(r - r_h)^2}{L_2^2} \left[1 - \frac{4(r - r_h)}{3r_h} \right] dt^2 + \frac{L_2^2}{(r - r_h)^2} \left[1 + \frac{4(r - r_h)}{3r_h} \right] dr^2 \\ + r_h^2 \left[1 + \frac{2(r - r_h)}{r_h} \right] (d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\varphi^2). \quad (2.22)$$

The region of the spacetime close to the horizon, including the $O(\frac{r-r_h}{r_h})$ corrections given in eq. (2.22), will be called the near-horizon region below.

Black holes close to extremality, with a small temperature, will also be of interest to us. The double zero in the metric coefficient $a^2(r)$ present in the extremal case will now split into two single zeros located at the outer and inner horizons of the non-extremal black hole. Denoting the two horizons by

$$r_{\pm} = r_h \pm \delta r_h, \quad (2.23)$$

where, because the black hole is still close to extremality,²

$$\frac{\delta r_h}{r_h} \ll 1, \quad (2.24)$$

we have that the temperature of the black hole is

$$T \sim \frac{\delta r_h}{L^2}. \quad (2.25)$$

²For more non-extremal black holes, $r_+ r_- = r_h^2$, but because of eq. (2.24) we can write eq. (2.23).

To avoid any confusion let us mention that in our notation r_h continues to refer to the horizon of the extremal black hole given in terms of the charge by eq. (2.12), while the horizons in the non-extremal case are given by r_{\pm} , eq. (2.23).

From eq. (2.19) and eq. (2.25) we see that the condition eq. (2.24) is equivalent to requiring that

$$T \ll \mu, \quad (2.26)$$

for the electrically charged case.

Sufficiently close to the horizon, the difference between the extremal and non-extremal geometries is clearly significant. However, once

$$r - r_h \gg \delta r_h, \quad (2.27)$$

the difference becomes small and the slightly non-extremal geometry is well approximated by the extremal one, with the same charge. Note that condition eq. (2.24) makes eq. (2.27) consistent with eq. (2.18). Therefore, at small temperature there is a region of the geometry well approximated by the AdS_2 metric where the effect of the temperature is unimportant.

In fact, since we are dealing with a big black hole, eq. (2.11), it will be convenient in the discussion which follows to take the temperature small enough so that

$$\delta r_h \ll L, \quad (2.28)$$

which implies that³

$$T \ll \frac{1}{L}. \quad (2.29)$$

This allows for a region of spacetime which lies in the asymptotic AdS_2 region, where eq. (2.17) is met, and which also meets eq. (2.27) and eq. (2.18). In this region, which will play an important role in some of the discussion that follows, the deviations due to the finite temperature have become unimportant and the metric has asymptotically attained the AdS_2 form, eq. (2.14). For brevity we will call this the asymptotic AdS_2 region below, see figure 1. Before moving ahead, we write out all the limits required to locate this region in one equation for readability,

$$\delta r_h \ll L_2 \sim L \ll r - r_h \ll r_h. \quad (2.30)$$

We end this subsection with some comments on thermodynamics. The excess mass, δM , close to extremality, is related to the temperature by

$$\delta M = \frac{\pi^2}{3G} T^2 L^2 r_h, \quad (2.31)$$

leading to a linear specific heat,

$$C = \frac{d\delta M}{dT} = \frac{2\pi^2}{3G} T L^2 r_h. \quad (2.32)$$

³This corresponds to temperatures which are smaller than the inverse-radius of the S^2 on which the boundary field theory lives.

We also note that the system has a gap, corresponding to a temperature very close to extremality, [67, 68],

$$T_{\text{gap}} \sim \frac{G}{L^2 r_h}. \quad (2.33)$$

This is much smaller than $1/L$. We will be working at temperatures $T \gg T_{\text{gap}}$, meeting eq. (2.29) and eq. (2.26).

2.1 Time dependence

We now turn to studying time-dependent perturbations of this system which preserve the spherical symmetry. With no loss of generality, the metric is given by

$$ds^2 = g_{\alpha\beta} dx^\alpha dx^\beta + e^{2\phi} d\Omega_2^2, \quad (2.34)$$

where $g_{\alpha\beta}$ is the metric in the $r-t$ plane, and $e^{2\phi}$ is the radius of the S^2 . These components of the metric are general functions of (r, t) . It is easy to see that the equations of motion and Bianchi identities completely determine the gauge field which continues to be given by eqs.(2.3) and (2.4) (we use the electromagnetic duality to continue to work with the purely magnetic case for simplicity).

By a suitable coordinate transformation the metric can be brought to the form,

$$ds^2 = -g_{tt} dt^2 + g_{rr} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_2^2. \quad (2.35)$$

The g_{rt} equation of motion now leads to

$$\partial_t g_{rr} = 0 \Rightarrow g_{rr} \equiv g_{rr}(r). \quad (2.36)$$

The g_{tt} equation is first order in r and can be integrated to give

$$g_{rr} = \left(1 - \frac{2GM}{r} + \frac{4\pi Q_m^2}{r^2} + \frac{r^2}{L^2} \right)^{-1}. \quad (2.37)$$

Finally the g_{rr} equation after a further time-reparametrisation gives

$$g_{tt} = 1 - \frac{2GM}{r} + \frac{4\pi Q_m^2}{r^2} + \frac{r^2}{L^2}. \quad (2.38)$$

As a result we see that the most general spherically symmetric solution of the Einstein-Maxwell system, in the presence of a cosmological constant, is the RN black hole.

The arguments above are simply a proof of Birkhoff's theorem. Note in particular that the static nature of the solution was not imposed to begin with and arose as a consequence of the equations of motion, once spherical symmetry was imposed. Our conclusion, that the RN black hole is the most general spherically symmetric solution, is to be physically expected since there are no dynamical degrees of freedom in gravity or the gauge field in the S -wave sector.

It is also worth noting that while the analysis above was carried out in the four-dimensional theory, we would have reached the same conclusions in a two-dimensional model obtained by carrying out a dimensional reduction, as is done in section 5. The

additional equations in the four-dimensional theory do not need to be used above in deriving the Birkhoff's theorem.

One additional point needs to be examined before we conclude that there are no dynamical degrees of freedom in the S -wave sector of this theory. The above argument shows that there are no bulk degrees of freedom, but in the presence of a boundary extra boundary degrees can arise. However, in asymptotically AdS_4 space the asymptotic symmetry group is $\text{SO}(3, 2)$, which is just the group of exact isometries. Thus, unlike AdS_3 or AdS_2 , here there are no extra boundary degrees of freedom.

2.2 Thermodynamics of the AdS_4 RN black hole

The thermodynamics of the AdS_4 RN black hole is well understood. We summarise some key points here for completeness, more details can be found in appendix A.

The Euclidean Einstein-Maxwell action is given by,

$$S = -\frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{g}(R - 2\Lambda) - \frac{1}{8\pi G} \int_{\text{bdy}} d^3x \sqrt{\gamma} K + \frac{1}{4G} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} F^2, \quad (2.39)$$

where we have included the extrinsic curvature term at the asymptotic AdS_4 boundary. It will be convenient in the discussion below to work with magnetically charged black holes for which $F_{\mu\nu}$ is given in eq. (2.4). The above action is divergent and we have to add counter terms to make the full 4D action finite, see [69–75],

$$S_{\text{count}} = \frac{1}{4\pi GL} \int_{\text{bdy}} d^3x \sqrt{\gamma} \left(1 + \frac{L^2}{4} R_3 \right), \quad (2.40)$$

where R_3 is the Ricci scalar of the boundary surface. We denote the regulated action by $S_{\text{reg}} = S + S_{\text{count}}$.

Standard manipulations then show that the entropy of the black hole is given by

$$S_{\text{ent}} = \beta M - S_{\text{reg}} = \left(\frac{M}{2} + \frac{r_+^3}{2GL^2} - \frac{2\pi Q^2}{G} \frac{1}{r_+} \right) \beta = \frac{\pi r_+^2}{G}, \quad (2.41)$$

where r_+ is the outer horizon of the black hole, and the temperature is given by

$$T = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{GM}{r_+^2} - \frac{4\pi Q^2}{r_+^3} + \frac{r_+}{L^2} \right). \quad (2.42)$$

Close to extremality, where the condition eq. (2.24) is met, the resulting free energy is given by,

$$\begin{aligned} \beta F &= \beta M - S_{\text{ent}} = \beta (M_{\text{ext}} + \delta M) - \frac{\pi(r_h + \delta r_h)^2}{G} \\ &= \beta M_{\text{ext}} - \beta \delta M - \frac{\pi r_h^2}{G}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.43)$$

In the last line, we expanded to linear order in δr_h and used eq. (2.31) and eq. (D.3) to relate δr_h to δM .

3 The four-point function

Next we couple the system to a scalar field. The bulk scalar is dual to a scalar operator in the boundary theory which lives on $S^2 \times T$ and we will be interested in the four-point function of this operator at low-energies and zero temperature. In this paper we will restrict ourselves to working in the S -wave sector, invariant under the rotations of the S^2 . We work with the metric in Euclidean signature in this section.

The scalar σ with mass m has the action

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} [(\partial\sigma)^2 + m^2\sigma^2]. \quad (3.1)$$

We will consider the case $m^2 > 0$ below. The scalar field is free except for gravitational interactions.

In the S -wave sector, the system of gravity and the gauge field have no dynamical degrees of freedom. The presence of the scalar gives rise to the dynamics. The gravitational interactions will give rise to a non-trivial four-point function for the scalar field. This is analogous to effects due to the non-trivial Coulomb field for a spherically symmetric charged distribution. We will be interested in the resulting four-point function.

We can expand σ in terms of modes of definite frequency, using spherical symmetry to write it only as a function of t and r ,

$$\sigma(t, r) = \int d\omega e^{i\omega t} \sigma(\omega, r), \quad (3.2)$$

where $\sigma(\omega, r)$ in the background eq. (2.2) satisfies the equation

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \partial_r (r^2 a^2 \partial_r \sigma) - \left(\frac{\omega^2}{a^2} + m^2 \right) \sigma = 0. \quad (3.3)$$

As is well-known, in the asymptotically AdS_4 region, $r \rightarrow \infty$, the ω dependent term in eq. (3.3) can be neglected and the solution goes like

$$\sigma \sim r^{\Delta_{\pm}}, \quad (3.4)$$

where

$$\Delta_{\pm} = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{9 + 4m^2 L^2}}{2}. \quad (3.5)$$

The r^{Δ_+} mode is the non-normalisable mode which dominates when $r \rightarrow \infty$. We take the boundary of AdS_4 to be located at

$$\frac{r}{L^2} = \frac{1}{\delta} \gg 1, \quad (3.6)$$

and take the asymptotic behaviour of σ to be

$$\sigma \rightarrow \sigma(\omega) \left(\frac{r}{L^2} \right)^{\Delta_+}. \quad (3.7)$$

The coefficient $\sigma(\omega)$ is the source in the dual field theory for frequency ω .

The on-shell action is a functional of this source term, and the four-point function in the boundary theory is given by the term in the on-shell action which contains four powers of $\sigma(\omega)$. Here, we will be interested in probing the near-extremal geometries by calculating this four-point function at sufficiently low frequencies. We will see below that the non-trivial part of the four-point function arises from the near-horizon region of the spacetime in this limit.

Let us make the required condition for the frequency to be small precise. As was mentioned above, the extremal black hole corresponds to the field theory at chemical potential μ , eq. (2.19). We expect that the condition for small frequency should require that

$$\omega \ll \mu \sim \frac{r_h}{L^2}. \quad (3.8)$$

In section 2, after eq. (2.17) we discussed the asymptotic AdS_2 region which meets the conditions⁴ eq. (2.30). We will be interested in situations where the response to the scalar arises essentially from the region extending from the horizon to values of r lying in this asymptotic AdS_2 region. As we see below this will happen if the frequency dependent term in eq. (3.3) is small for the part of spacetime lying beyond the asymptotic AdS_2 region; that is, at larger values of r .

More precisely, we see from eq. (3.3) that the frequency dependence can be neglected compared to the mass term when

$$\frac{\omega}{a} \ll m. \quad (3.9)$$

For this to hold in the asymptotic AdS_2 region we need⁵

$$\frac{\omega}{m} \ll \frac{(r - r_h)}{L_2}. \quad (3.10)$$

For $mL \sim O(1)$, we see that for ω meeting eq. (3.8) this condition can be met for values of r lying in the asymptotic AdS_2 region meeting the condition

$$\omega \ll \frac{r - r_h}{L_2^2} \ll \frac{r_h}{L_2^2}. \quad (3.11)$$

Since a^2 , which is the g_{tt} component of the metric, monotonically increases away from the horizon, the condition eq. (3.9) will then continue to be met by increasing r further, all the way to the AdS_4 boundary, and the frequency dependence in eq. (3.3) can be neglected in this whole region away from the near-horizon spacetime.

Once the frequency term can be neglected eq. (3.3) takes the form

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \partial_r (r^2 a^2 \partial_r \sigma) - m^2 \sigma = 0. \quad (3.12)$$

We see that the resulting solution, with the boundary condition eq. (3.7) is then, to the leading order, independent of ω in this region upto a multiplicative constant $\sigma(\omega)$. Denoting

⁴Since we will be considering small temperatures, eq. (2.28), eq. (2.17) ensures that eq. (2.27) is met.

⁵We will work with non-zero mass here. A similar analysis for the massless case can also be carried out.

the r -dependent part of the solution by $f(r)$, the factorised form of the solution away from the horizon is

$$\sigma(t, r) = \int d\omega e^{i\omega t} \sigma(\omega) f(r) = \sigma(t) f(r), \quad (3.13)$$

where

$$\sigma(t) = \int d\omega e^{i\omega t} \sigma(\omega). \quad (3.14)$$

In contrast, in the region sufficiently close to the horizon where eq. (3.9) is not met and the ω dependent terms cannot be neglected in eq. (3.3), ω enters in the radial dependence non-trivially.

We will see below that in the region where this factorised form eq. (3.13) is valid, the contribution to the four-point function is only a contact term. The non-contact terms in the time-dependence arise solely from the region sufficiently close to the horizon where the frequency dependence is more non-trivial.

3.1 On-shell action

We now turn to computing the on-shell action which arises due to the gravitational back-reaction produced by a scalar perturbation satisfying eq. (3.3). The basic idea of the calculation is straightforward. The scalar perturbation gives rise to a stress tensor which perturbs the metric and results in a non-trivial on-shell action. In contrast, the gauge field is left unchanged and does not play a role.

The stress tensor produced by the scalar is

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \sigma \partial_\nu \sigma - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} [(\partial\sigma)^2 + m^2 \sigma^2], \quad (3.15)$$

and is quadratic in the scalar. We are in particular interested in the four-point function on the boundary for the operator dual to the scalar. This is obtained from terms in the on-shell action which are quartic in the source $\sigma(t)$, eq. (3.7). Such terms arise from expressions which are quadratic in the stress tensor. As mentioned above we will consider S-wave perturbations for the scalar.

Our calculation is modeled along the lines of the discussion in [76]. We expand the Euclidean metric as

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 = & a^2(r) (1 + h_{tt}) dt^2 + \frac{1}{a^2(r)} (1 + h_{rr}) dr^2 \\ & + 2h_{tr} dt dr + b^2(r) (1 + h_{\theta\theta}) (d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\varphi^2), \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

where the perturbations are only functions of t and r . Note that the metric perturbations which arise also preserve spherical symmetry.

We will work in the gauge where $h_{rr} = h_{tr} = 0$. It is easy to see in general that the on-shell action dependent on the scalar is given by

$$S_{\text{OS}} = -\pi \int dt dr \left(\frac{b^2}{a^2} h_{tt} T_{tt} + 2h_{\theta\theta} T_{\theta\theta} \right). \quad (3.17)$$

See appendix B for more details.

As discussed in appendix B, by using the equations of motion for the metric perturbations and the conservation equations for the stress tensor, one gets that this on-shell action is given by

$$S_{\text{OS}} = -8\pi^2 G \int dt dr \left(\frac{2a^2 b^3}{b'} T_{rr} \frac{1}{\partial_t} T_{tr} - a^2 b^2 \left(1 + \frac{2a'b}{b'a} \right) T_{tr} \frac{1}{\partial_t^2} T_{tr} \right). \quad (3.18)$$

The r integral is from the horizon to the AdS_4 boundary. We will be considering scalar perturbations with non-zero frequency here, so the factors of inverse powers of ∂_t in eq. (3.18) are well defined and should not cause any alarm. For example, $\frac{1}{\partial_t} T_{tr} \sim \frac{1}{(i\omega)} T_{tr}$ if $T_{tr} \sim e^{i\omega t}$.

We can now analyse the contribution to the r integral in eq. (3.18) from the region discussed previously where the ω dependent term in the scalar equation, eq. (3.3), is negligible. As discussed above, in this region the scalar field takes the form eq. (3.13). Inserting this in eq. (3.18) we see that the contribution to the four-point function from this region is a contact term. This is because both terms on the r.h.s. of eq. (3.18) involve one factor of the stress tensor with no inverse derivative of time acting on it. In the first term on the r.h.s. of eq. (3.18) this is the first factor of T_{rr} , and in the second term it is the factor of T_{tr} . These factors of the stress tensor in turn involve two powers of the scalar source term at the same time. As a result the contribution to the scalar four-point function is a contact term, as is explained in more detail in appendix B.

We will not be interested in the contact term contributions to the four-point function here. For our purposes therefore the four-point function can be calculated entirely from the region where the frequency dependent term in the scalar equation cannot be neglected, and eq. (3.9) is not met. For small frequency meeting condition eq. (3.10), this region lies in the near-horizon spacetime, extending from the horizon to the asymptotic AdS_2 region where both eq. (2.18) and eq. (2.17) are met.

The summary so far of this subsection then is that we can calculate the four-point function for small frequencies by cutting off the radial integral in eq. (3.18) at a location $r = r_c$ where eq. (2.18) and eq. (2.17) are both met,

$$\text{Near-horizon limit:} \quad \frac{r_c - r_h}{r_h} \ll 1, \quad (3.19)$$

$$\text{Near AdS}_2 \text{ boundary:} \quad \frac{r_c - r_h}{L_2} \gg 1, \quad (3.20)$$

and eq. (3.11) is also met so that

$$\omega \ll \frac{r_c - r_h}{L_2^2}. \quad (3.21)$$

The region $r > r_c$ only gives rise to contact terms. See figure 1.

This result is of course what one would have expected from the relation between the energy scale in the boundary and the radial direction in the bulk. Since we are interested in low frequencies, only the deep interior region of the geometry, at small values of r , should have contributed as we find above. We see that for sufficiently small values of ω the holographic screen can in effect be moved from the AdS_4 boundary to $r = r_c$ located at the boundary of the AdS_2 region. This process of moving the screen is the holographic

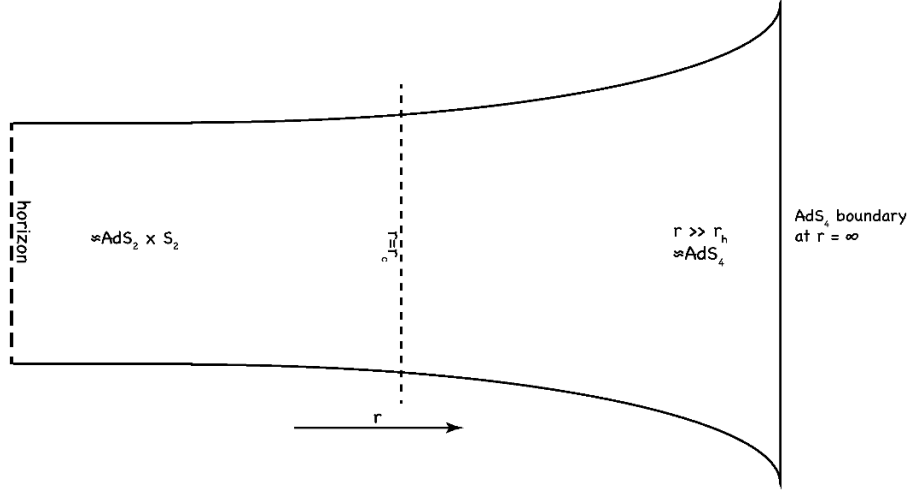


Figure 1. The near-extremal geometry. For $r \rightarrow \infty$ the geometry is asymptotically AdS_4 . $r \rightarrow r_c$, where $\frac{r_c - r_h}{r_h} \ll 1$, $\frac{r_c - r_h}{L} \gg 1$, is the asymptotic $\text{AdS}_2 \times S^2$ region. The horizon at extremality is at $r = r_h$.

analogue of moving the RG scale in the field theory from the deep UV close to a cut-off which is closer to the energy scales of interest.

One additional point remains to be clarified. To fully specify the calculation in terms of data only in the region $r < r_c$ we also need to relate the value of the scalar field at the AdS_4 boundary to its value at the new screen $r = r_c$. The value at r_c effectively gives rise to a source in the low-energy theory in the AdS_2 region. As we discuss in some detail in appendix C, up to terms which are suppressed at low frequencies, the source we introduce at the screen $r = r_c$ is related to the source in eq. (3.7) at the AdS_4 boundary by a rescaling. This rescaling is the analogue of wave function renormalization and is to be expected from the analogy to the RG transformation in the field theory. Once this rescaling is carried out the result for the four-point function will not depend on where precisely the screen is located, i.e. on how r_c is chosen.

In view of the above discussion, the integral in the on-shell action eq. (3.18) can be restricted to the near-horizon AdS_2 region, from the horizon to r_c , with the remaining integral $r > r_c$ giving rise to contact terms,

$$S = -8\pi^2 G \int dt \int_{r_h}^{r_c} dr \left(\frac{2a^2 b^3}{b'} T_{rr} \frac{1}{\partial_t} T_{tr} - a^2 b^2 \left(1 + \frac{2a'b}{b'a} \right) T_{tr} \frac{1}{\partial_t^2} T_{tr} \right) + \text{contact terms} \quad (3.22)$$

Now notice that in the second term above we can approximate $(1 + \frac{2a'b}{b'a}) \simeq \frac{2a'b}{b'a}$. For example, near $r = r_c$, which lies in the asymptotic AdS_2 region, eq. (2.30),

$$\begin{aligned} a^2 &\approx \frac{(r - r_h)^2}{L_2^2}, \\ a' &= \frac{1}{L_2}, \\ b &\approx r_h, \\ b' &\approx 1, \end{aligned} \quad (3.23)$$

so that

$$\frac{a'b}{b'a} \simeq \frac{r_h}{r - r_h} \gg 1. \quad (3.24)$$

For smaller values of r near the horizon the l.h.s. in eq. (3.24) is even bigger since $a \rightarrow 0$. As a result the leading term in the on-shell action becomes⁶

$$S \simeq -16\pi^2 G \int dt \int_{r_h}^{r_c} dr \left(\frac{b^3 a^2}{b'} T_{rr} \frac{1}{\partial_t} T_{tr} - b^3 a^2 \frac{a'}{b'a} T_{tr} \frac{1}{\partial_t^2} T_{tr} \right), \quad (3.25)$$

where the quantities a, b etc. take the values in (3.23); because of the b^3 , eq. (3.25) scales like r_h^3 .

We will see below that this leading term is reproduced in the JT theory at zero temperature.

In what follows, it will be convenient to use a new coordinate z defined as

$$z = \frac{L_2^2}{(r - r_h)}. \quad (3.26)$$

For the extremal case we get, after converting between r and z coordinates,

$$S \simeq 16\pi^2 G \frac{r_h^3}{L_2^2} \int dt \int_{\delta_c}^{\infty} dz z \left(T_{tz} \frac{1}{\partial_t^2} T_{tz} - z T_{tz} \frac{1}{\partial_t} T_{zz} \right), \quad (3.27)$$

with $\delta_c = \frac{L_2^2}{r_c - r_h}$.

We see below that eq. (3.27) will be reproduced by the JT model for a suitable choice of parameters.

4 The JT model

In this section we discuss the JT model in more detail and show that it reproduces the behaviour of the four-dimensional near-extremal RN system discussed above at low energies.

The JT model was discussed in [33, 34, 60, 61] and consists of a scalar ϕ , called the dilaton, coupled to gravity in two-dimensions with the action

$$S_{\text{JT}} = -\frac{r_h^2}{4G} \left(\int d^2x \sqrt{g} R + 2 \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} K \right) - \frac{r_h^2}{2G} \left(\int d^2x \sqrt{g} \phi (R - \Lambda_2) + 2 \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \phi K \right). \quad (4.1)$$

The first term is topological and gives rise to the ground state entropy for the extremal black hole. The second term is dynamical. We will work in Euclidean space here.

In section 5, we will carry out the S-wave reduction of the four-dimensional Einstein-Maxwell system and show that the low-energy dynamics is effectively described by the JT theory. The coefficients in the action, eq. (4.1), have been chosen to agree with the S-wave reduction, with G being the four-dimensional Newton's constant, and r_h being the attractor

⁶More correctly, the lower limit of the r integral in eq. (3.22), eq. (3.25) is the outer horizon, which is at r_h only in the extremal, or zero temperature, case.

value of the radius of the S^2 , i.e., its value at the horizon of the extremal black hole. The two-dimensional cosmological constant Λ_2 is related to the AdS_2 radius L_2 , eq. (2.15), by

$$\Lambda_2 = -\frac{2}{L_2^2}. \quad (4.2)$$

In addition to the terms above we will see below that a counter term is needed on the boundary so that one gets finite results for the thermodynamics and response. This is of the form

$$S_{ct} = \frac{r_h^2}{GL_2} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \phi. \quad (4.3)$$

The full action then becomes

$$S_{\text{JT}} = -\frac{r_h^2}{2G} \left(\int d^2x \sqrt{g} \phi (R - \Lambda_2) + 2 \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \phi K \right) + \frac{r_h^2}{GL_2} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \phi, \quad (4.4)$$

where we have left out the topological term.

The equation of motion from varying ϕ tells us that the geometry must be AdS_2 with no corrections. The non-trivial behaviour of this system therefore arises because of the presence of a boundary. As the boundary changes, its extrinsic curvature and induced metric change, and this gives rise to a varying on-shell action.

To be more specific, take AdS_2 space (Euclidean) in Poincaré coordinates,

$$ds^2 = \frac{L_2^2}{z^2} (dt^2 + dz^2), \quad (4.5)$$

and consider a boundary in the asymptotic region, $z \ll L_2$. We start with the boundary at $z = \delta$, $\frac{\delta}{L_2} \ll 1$. For small fluctuations, the resulting boundary can now be described by the curve,

$$z(1 - \epsilon'(t)) = \delta, \quad (4.6)$$

where $\epsilon(t)$ parametrises the fluctuations.

It is convenient to change coordinates,

$$t = \hat{t} + \epsilon(\hat{t}) - \frac{\hat{z}^2 \epsilon''(\hat{t})}{2}, \quad (4.7)$$

$$z = \hat{z}(1 + \epsilon'(\hat{t})). \quad (4.8)$$

In these new coordinates the metric takes the form

$$ds^2 = \frac{L_2^2}{\hat{z}^2} (1 + h_{tt}) d\hat{t}^2 + \frac{L_2^2}{\hat{z}^2} d\hat{z}^2, \quad (4.9)$$

with

$$h_{tt} = -\epsilon'''(\hat{t}) \hat{z}^2, \quad (4.10)$$

and the boundary is at $\hat{z} = \delta$. The fluctuations are now parametrised by h_{tt} . Eq. (4.9) corresponds to choosing the Fefferman-Graham (FG) gauge.

We will find it convenient to work in the (\hat{t}, \hat{z}) coordinates below, in which the boundary is fixed at coordinate value δ and h_{tt} is turned on. To avoid clutter we will drop the hats

on the new coordinates and refer to them now on as (t, z) , with a metric of the form eq. (4.9). We see that the coordinate transformation eq. (4.7), eq. (4.8) involves a time reparametrisation, and from eq. (4.9) we see that this transformation is an asymptotic isometry, since h_{tt} vanishes as $z \rightarrow 0$, but is not zero in general.

More generally, even in the presence of other fields which we will introduce later, the boundary conditions we will impose on the field ϕ and h_{tt} are as follows,

$$\phi = \frac{\alpha}{z}, \quad (4.11)$$

$$h_{tt} \rightarrow -\epsilon'''(t)z^2, \quad (4.12)$$

as $z \rightarrow \delta$. These correspond to the dilaton being fixed (Dirichlet boundary condition) and to h_{tt} vanishing, with the coefficient of the leading z^2 behaviour being a general function of time.

Let us now show that for the action eq. (4.4) these boundary conditions give rise to a well defined variational principle.

Expanding the action to quadratic order we get

$$S = -\frac{r_h^2}{2G} \int d^2x \phi \left[-\partial_z^2 h_{tt} + \frac{\partial_z h_{tt}}{z} \right] + \frac{r_h^2}{2G} \int_{\text{bdy}} \phi \partial_z h_{tt}. \quad (4.13)$$

The boundary terms obtained when carrying out a variation of this action take the form

$$S_{bt} = \frac{r_h^2}{2G} \int_{\text{bdy}} \delta\phi \partial_z h_{tt} + \left(\partial_z \phi + \frac{\phi}{z} \right) \delta h_{tt}, \quad (4.14)$$

where $\delta\phi$ and δh_{tt} are the variations. For a well defined variational principle to exist these boundary terms must vanish. We see that for the boundary conditions mentioned above, this is indeed true.

From eq. (4.13) we find that the action, for a solution with metric being AdS_2 and with the behaviour eq. (4.11), eq. (4.12), is given by

$$S = -\frac{r_h^2}{G} \alpha \int_{\text{bdy}} \epsilon'''(t). \quad (4.15)$$

We see that the action depends on $\epsilon(t)$ which is the time reparametrisation degree of freedom associated with fluctuations in the boundary. The $\text{SL}(2, R)$ isometries of AdS_2 correspond to $\epsilon''' = 0$ and give rise to a vanishing contribution. More generally, one can argue (see [2, 34]) that an action for $\text{diff}/\text{SL}(2, R)$,⁷ which at the linearised level goes like ϵ''' , must be proportional to the Schwarzian derivative of the time reparametrisations,

$$S = -\frac{r_h^2}{G} \alpha \int_{\text{bdy}} \text{Sch}[\epsilon(t)], \quad (4.16)$$

where $\text{Sch}[\epsilon(t)]$, the Schwarzian derivative, is defined for a time reparametrisation as follows,

$$f(t) = t + \epsilon(t), \quad (4.17)$$

$$\text{Sch}[\epsilon(t)] = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{(f'')^2}{(f')^2} + \left(\frac{f''}{f'} \right)'. \quad (4.18)$$

⁷diff denotes time reparametrisations.

Such a more general action would arise if we started with eq. (4.4) and kept terms beyond the quadratic order in ϕ, h_{tt} .

For reference below we note that the Schwarzian to quadratic order in $\epsilon(t)$ is given by

$$\text{Sch}[\epsilon(t)] = \epsilon''' - \frac{3}{2}(\epsilon'')^2 - \epsilon' \epsilon''' + \dots \quad (4.19)$$

From the quadratic terms we see that the equation of motion, at the linear level for $\epsilon(t)$, is

$$\epsilon'''' = 0, \quad (4.20)$$

with the most general solution

$$\epsilon(t) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 t + \alpha_2 t^2 + \alpha_3 t^3. \quad (4.21)$$

Here, $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2$ parametrise $\text{SL}(2, R)$ transformations, while α_3 is related to the mass of the non-extremal black hole. The fact that the most general solution, up to diffeomorphisms, is a black hole agrees with Birkhoff's theorem applied to the S -wave sector of the 4 dimensional system.⁸

In summary, the dynamics of the JT model arises due to fluctuations of the boundary. These are related to time reparametrisations eq. (4.7), eq. (4.8), and are described by an action involving the Schwarzian derivative, eq. (4.15), eq. (4.16).

4.1 Thermodynamics

A time independent solution of the action eq. (4.4) is given by

$$\phi = \frac{L_2^2}{r_h z}, \quad (4.22)$$

with the metric being eq. (4.9).

In this solution the $\text{SL}(2, R)$ isometry of AdS_2 space is broken by the non-vanishing dilaton. This solution meets the boundary conditions eq. (4.11), eq. (4.12), with $\alpha = \frac{L_2^2}{r_h}$. This solution is the starting point for understanding the low-energy behaviour of near-extremal black holes in four dimensions, as we will see below.

Black holes in the JT model are given by the metric

$$ds^2 = \left(\frac{(r - r_h)^2}{L_2^2} - \frac{2G\delta M}{r_h} \right) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{\left(\frac{(r - r_h)^2}{L_2^2} - \frac{2G\delta M}{r_h} \right)}, \quad (4.23)$$

with the dilaton given by eq. (4.22). Here r is related to z by eq. (3.26).

The resulting on-shell action is easy to calculate and gives (see appendix D for details)

$$S_{\text{JT}} = -\beta\delta M - \frac{\pi r_h^2}{G}. \quad (4.24)$$

Note that the counter term eq. (4.3) is needed to get a finite result.

⁸We thank Juan Maldacena and Douglas Stanford for emphasizing this to us.

We see that this almost agrees with the free energy eq. (2.43) obtained from the four-dimensional analysis of the near-extremal geometry; there is an extra term βM_{ext} in eq. (2.43). This tells us that the near-horizon system does not reproduce the mass of the extremal state, but it does correctly capture the departures from extremality.⁹

It is also easy to see that the topological term, eq. (D.2), gives the correct ground state entropy. Thus the JT model correctly reproduces the thermodynamics of the near-extremal RN black hole.

4.2 Four-point function

We now introduce an extra scalar field $\sigma(t, z)$, with the action

$$S_\sigma = 2\pi r_h^2 \int d^2x \sqrt{g} ((\partial\sigma)^2 + m^2 \sigma^2). \quad (4.25)$$

Note that the scalar field only couples to the metric and not to the dilaton. It is easy to see from eq. (4.25) that the asymptotic behaviour of $\sigma(t, z)$ as $z \rightarrow 0$ is

$$\sigma \rightarrow \sigma_+(t) z^{\Delta_+} + \sigma_-(t) z^{\Delta_-}, \quad (4.26)$$

where

$$\Delta_\pm = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 4m^2 L_2^2}}{2}. \quad (4.27)$$

The normalisable and non-normalisable modes correspond to the $z^{\Delta_+}, z^{\Delta_-}$ behaviour respectively.¹⁰

For small fluctuations, the boundary can be described by eq. (4.6). We impose Dirichlet boundary condition on this boundary to make the variational principle well defined. The scalar action comes out to be (see appendix E for details)

$$S_\sigma = 4\pi r_h^2 C \Delta_+ (\Delta_- - \Delta_+) \int dt_1 dt_2 \frac{\sigma(t_1) \sigma(t_2)}{|t_1 - t_2|^{2\Delta_+}} \left(\epsilon'(t_1) - 2 \frac{\epsilon(t_1)}{|t_1 - t_2|} \right). \quad (4.28)$$

Expressing the action eq. (4.28) in terms of the stress tensor components,

$$T_{\alpha\beta} = \partial_\alpha \sigma \partial_\beta \sigma - \frac{1}{2} g_{\alpha\beta} ((\partial\sigma)^2 + m^2 \sigma^2), \quad (4.29)$$

we get

$$S_\sigma = 4\pi r_h^2 \int dt (\epsilon'(t) z T_{zz} + \epsilon(t) T_{tz}). \quad (4.30)$$

We can now compute the on-shell action for the JT model. The total action is given by

$$S = S_\epsilon + S_\sigma, \quad (4.31)$$

⁹This is similar to what happens in the near-horizon $\text{AdS}_5 \times S^5$ geometry for $D3$ branes. This region does not correctly reproduce the ADM mass of the $D3$ branes, but it does give rise accurately to the low-energy dynamics which agrees with that of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory.

¹⁰We take $m^2 > 0$ for simplicity here.

where S_ϵ is the Schwarzian action defined in eq. (4.16). We work to quadratic order in $\epsilon(t)$, eq. (4.19). This gives

$$S_\epsilon = -\frac{r_h L_2^2}{G} \int dt \left(-\frac{3}{2} (\epsilon'')^2 - \epsilon' \epsilon''' \right). \quad (4.32)$$

Here we have substituted for α from eq. (4.22). Carrying out integration by parts and dropping total derivatives we then get

$$S_\epsilon = \frac{r_h L_2^2}{2G} \int dt \epsilon(t) \epsilon'''(t). \quad (4.33)$$

Therefore the total action eq. (4.31) is

$$S = \frac{r_h L_2^2}{2G} \int dt \epsilon(t) \epsilon'''(t) + 4\pi r_h^2 \int dt (\epsilon'(t) z T_{zz} + \epsilon(t) T_{tz}). \quad (4.34)$$

We find the equation of motion for $\epsilon(t)$ from eq. (4.34) to be

$$\epsilon'''(t) = -\frac{4\pi G r_h}{L_2^2} (T_{tz} - z \partial_t T_{zz}). \quad (4.35)$$

As a result, the on-shell action becomes

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{OS}} &= 2\pi r_h^2 \int dt \epsilon (T_{tz} - z \partial_t T_{zz}) \\ &= -\frac{8\pi^2 G r_h^3}{L_2^2} \int dt (T_{tz} - z \partial_t T_{zz}) \frac{1}{\partial_t^4} (T_{tz} - z \partial_t T_{zz}). \end{aligned} \quad (4.36)$$

(We are considering time dependent solutions for σ so the factors of $\frac{1}{\partial_t}$ should not cause any alarm, as in section 3 above). Note that the action eq. (4.36) is expressed as a time integral on the boundary. We can express it as a bulk integral as follows,

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{OS}} &= \frac{8\pi^2 G r_h^3}{L_2^2} \int dt dz \partial_z \left((T_{tz} - z \partial_t T_{zz}) \frac{1}{\partial_t^4} (T_{tz} - z \partial_t T_{zz}) \right) \\ &= \frac{16\pi^2 G r_h^3}{L_2^2} \int dt dz \partial_z (T_{tz} - z \partial_t T_{zz}) \frac{1}{\partial_t^4} (T_{tz} - z \partial_t T_{zz}). \end{aligned} \quad (4.37)$$

Note that the extra minus sign is due to the boundary, $z = \delta$, being evaluated at the lower limit of the z integral. Note also that a possible contribution from the horizon vanishes because the stress tensor vanishes there.

We can use the stress tensor conservation equations, eq. (F.6) in appendix F, to simplify eq. (4.37) to get

$$S_{\text{OS}} = \frac{16\pi^2 G r_h^3}{L_2^2} \int d^2x z T_{tz} \frac{1}{\partial_t^2} (T_{tz} - z \partial_t T_{zz}). \quad (4.38)$$

Note that this agrees with the action eq. (3.27). Thus, we see that the JT model agrees with the result obtained from the four-dimensional analysis at low-energies.

Let us next turn to the solution for the dilaton in the presence of the scalar σ . As discussed in appendix F the solution for ϕ is

$$\phi = \frac{L_2^2}{r_h z} (1 - \epsilon'(t)) + \frac{4\pi G}{z} \left(z \frac{1}{\partial_t^2} T_{zz} - \frac{1}{\partial_t^3} T_{tz} \right). \quad (4.39)$$

From eq. (4.35) and eq. (4.39), we see that the dilaton is a constant on the boundary.

It is interesting to note that the value of $\epsilon(t)$ obtained in eq. (4.35) by solving the Schwarzian action coupled to the scalar source automatically yields a solution which makes the dilaton constant on the boundary, consistent with the boundary conditions we imposed above.

Note also that the prefactors in eq. (4.37), eq. (4.38) go like r_h^3 , and are enhanced by an extra factor of r_h compared to the coefficient of the JT action we started with, eq. (4.1), and also the coefficient of the scalar action, eq. (4.25). These two coefficients, which are chosen to agree with what we obtain after carrying out the dimensional reduction as explained in the next section, go like $\frac{r_h^2}{G}$, with G being the four-dimensional Newton's constant. This is because the dimensional reduction is carried out over an S^2 of radius r_h .¹¹

The reason for the enhancement of the prefactor in eq. (4.37), eq. (4.38) is tied to the fact that the Schwarzian action in eq. (4.34) has a coefficient of order r_h , which is therefore suppressed by a factor of $1/r_h$ compared to the coefficients in eq. (4.1), eq. (4.25). The Schwarzian action arises because the time reparametrisations are broken; this in turn is tied to the breaking of the $SL(2, R)$ symmetry of AdS_2 due to the running of the dilaton. Since this running of the dilaton is suppressed by a factor of $1/r_h$, eq. (4.22), the resulting coefficient of the Schwarzian is also suppressed. This suppression then results in the on-shell value for $\epsilon(t)$ being big and going like r_h , eq. (4.35), and in turn results in the on-shell action, eq. (4.37), eq. (4.38), being $O(r_h^3)$.

These features are entirely analogous to what happens in the SYK model, with the parameter r_h/L^2 playing the role of J - the coefficient of the four Fermi coupling. In the electrically charged case $\frac{r_h}{L^2}$ is also of order the chemical potential μ in the boundary theory, eq. (2.19). It is interesting that r_h^2/G also determines the ground state entropy of the extremal system.

In summary, we have seen above that in the JT model the scalar source back-reacts on the dilaton and pushes the boundary in or out, causing it to fluctuate. The resulting on-shell action then gives rise to the four-point function. We have worked with the Euclidean theory here; by suitably analytically continuing in the standard fashion, one can obtain Minkowski correlators, including the out of time order four-point correlator, [30, 34, 77]. These will continue to agree between the JT model discussed here and the low-energy limit of the four-dimensional theory in section 5.

5 S-wave reduction

In this paper we have been studying spherically symmetric configurations in four dimensions. Here we will explicitly construct the two-dimensional model obtained by carrying out the dimensional reduction of the four-dimensional theory. The resulting two-dimensional model has some interesting differences with the Jackiw-Teitelboim theory which we will comment on below. On coupling the system to a scalar field we will find that the resulting four-point function, which receives its contribution at low-energies from the near-horizon AdS_2 region, agrees to leading order in the approximations with the result eq. (3.27) obtained above. Moreover, our analysis in the two-dimensional theory will reveal that this

¹¹For the scalar action eq. (4.25) we have absorbed the factor of $1/G$ by rescaling σ .

leading order result arises because of the dynamics associated with the boundary of the near-horizon AdS_2 region, which is described by an action involving the Schwarzsian derivative of time reparametrisations. In this section we work in Euclidean space.

The two-dimensional model we will consider is obtained by starting with the four-dimensional Euclidean action

$$S = -\frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{\hat{g}} (\hat{R} - 2\hat{\Lambda}) - \frac{1}{8\pi G} \int d^3x \sqrt{\hat{\gamma}} K^{(3)} + \frac{1}{4G} \int d^4x \sqrt{\hat{g}} F^2, \quad (5.1)$$

where $\hat{\gamma}$ denotes the determinant of the induced metric on the three-dimensional boundary, and $K^{(3)}$ is the trace of the extrinsic curvature of the boundary. We have used a hat, $\hat{}$, to denote four-dimensional quantities. We will be considering the case where we have a magnetic charge, see eq. (2.4). Note that we have included the Gibbons-Hawking boundary term in the action above.

For dimensional reduction, we assume the four-dimensional metric to have the form

$$ds^2 = g_{\alpha\beta}(t, r) dx^\alpha dx^\beta + \Phi^2(t, r) d\Omega_2^2, \quad (5.2)$$

where $g_{\alpha\beta}$ is the two-dimensional part of the metric and the dilaton Φ , which is the radius of the 2-sphere, is assumed to be independent of the angular coordinates (θ, φ) .

We take a magnetically charged black hole and solve for the magnetic field in terms of the metric, eq. (2.4).

Substituting for the metric from eq. (5.2) and for the magnetic field in the action eq. (5.1), and carrying out the integrals over the (θ, φ) coordinates gives the two-dimensional action

$$S = -\frac{1}{4G} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} \left[2 + \Phi^2(R - 2\hat{\Lambda}) + 2(\nabla\Phi)^2 \right] + \frac{2\pi Q_m^2}{G} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} \frac{1}{\Phi^2} \\ + \frac{1}{G} \int d^2x \partial_\mu (\sqrt{g} g^{\mu\nu} \Phi \partial_\nu \Phi) - \frac{1}{G} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \Phi n^\alpha \partial_\alpha \Phi - \frac{1}{2G} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \Phi^2 K. \quad (5.3)$$

Here n^α is the outward pointing unit normal vector to the boundary. The first two terms on the second line, which are quadratic in Φ , cancel. This gives the action

$$S = -\frac{1}{4G} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} \left[2 + \Phi^2(R - 2\hat{\Lambda}) + 2(\nabla\Phi)^2 \right] + \frac{2\pi Q_m^2}{G} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} \frac{1}{\Phi^2} \\ - \frac{1}{2G} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \Phi^2 K. \quad (5.4)$$

The boundary we consider will be located in the asymptotically AdS_2 region described in section 2, see also section 3. This is a region where the r coordinate takes a value meeting both eq. (2.17) and eq. (2.18). We will take the boundary to be at $r = r_c$, as in section 3 eqs. (3.19), (3.20) and eq. (3.21); also see figure 1.

Eq. (5.4) is our two-dimensional theory. It is straightforward to verify that AdS_2 is a solution with the dilaton taking a constant value, r_h . In fact this is the $\text{AdS}_2 \times \text{S}^2$ solution of the four-dimensional theory, eq. (2.14).

5.1 Comparison with the JT model

In order to make contact with the JT model, eq. (4.1), let us go to a frame where the dilaton kinetic energy vanishes. This can be achieved by performing a Weyl rescaling of the two-dimensional metric

$$g_{\alpha\beta} \rightarrow \frac{r_h}{\Phi} g_{\alpha\beta}, \quad (5.5)$$

with r_h being the value of the dilaton in the $\text{AdS}_2 \times \text{S}^2$ solution described above. The action eq. (5.4) now becomes

$$S = -\frac{1}{4G} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} \left[\frac{2r_h}{\Phi} + \Phi^2 R - 2r_h \Phi \hat{\Lambda} \right] + \frac{2\pi Q_m^2}{G} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} \frac{r_h}{\Phi^3} - \frac{1}{2G} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \Phi^2 K. \quad (5.6)$$

We now expand the dilaton in terms of a perturbation about its value r_h in the $\text{AdS}_2 \times \text{S}^2$ solution described above,

$$\Phi = r_h(1 + \phi). \quad (5.7)$$

Inserting this in the action eq. (5.6) and expanding to quadratic order in ϕ gives

$$S = -\frac{r_h^2}{4G} \left(\int d^2x \sqrt{g} R + 2 \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} K \right) - \frac{r_h^2}{2G} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} \phi (R - \Lambda_2) - \frac{r_h^2}{G} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \phi K - \frac{r_h^2}{2G} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \phi^2 K. \quad (5.8)$$

Here κ is defined as

$$\kappa = \frac{L^2 + 4r_h^2}{L^2 + 6r_h^2}, \quad (5.9)$$

and takes the value $\kappa \simeq \frac{2}{3}$ when $r_h \gg L$.

Comparing with eq. (4.1) we see that the dimensionally reduced model has an extra term in the bulk, which is the third term in eq. (5.8), going like ϕ^2 , and also an extra boundary term, which is the last term in eq. (5.8), going like $\phi^2 K$.

One important consequence of the extra bulk term is that the metric in the solution for the dimensionally reduced model in the presence of a varying dilaton is not AdS_2 and has corrections, and these arise at the same order as the varying dilaton. This is easy to see because the equation of motion for ϕ in the presence of this term becomes schematically of the form

$$R = \Lambda_2 + \mathcal{O}(\phi), \quad (5.10)$$

which means that the metric must depart from AdS_2 at linear order as ϕ .

In fact this agrees with what we already know from the near-horizon metric in the four-dimensional solution, eq. (2.2), eq. (2.22). Expanding eq. (2.2) for the extremal case in the near-horizon limit, we get up to terms of order $O(\frac{r-r_h}{r_h})$,

$$\phi = \frac{r - r_h}{r_h} \quad (5.11)$$

and

$$ds^2 = \frac{(r - r_h)^2}{L_2^2} \left(1 - \frac{(r - r_h)}{3r_h} \right) dt^2 + \frac{L_2^2}{(r - r_h)^2} \left(1 + \frac{7(r - r_h)}{3r_h} \right) dr^2. \quad (5.12)$$

Here we have rescaled the two-dimensional metric from its value in eq. (2.2) to agree with eq. (5.5). We see from eq. (5.12) and eq. (5.11) that the metric also changes to the same order in $1/r_h$ as the dilaton.

Let us end this subsection with one more comment. To completely specify the dimensionally reduced model we also need to specify the boundary conditions which must be met at the boundary located at $r = r_c$, eq. (3.19), eq. (3.20) and eq. (3.21). It is clear from the discussion in section 3 that for the probe scalar we introduce below we must impose Dirichlet boundary conditions. In addition we will also impose Dirichlet boundary conditions on the dilaton, like in the JT model, eq. (4.11).¹²

5.2 More detailed comparison with the JT model

Despite the presence of extra terms in the action of the dimensionally reduced model, we will see here that close to extremality the thermodynamics and response to a probe scalar agrees with the JT model.

We begin with the thermodynamics. We are interested in working to leading order in $\frac{TL^2}{r_h}$ and $\frac{L}{r_h}$. In the discussion below we only keep track of powers of r_h , the appropriate factors of L can then be inserted on dimensional grounds.¹³

The partition function is obtained from the on-shell action of the black hole solution. It is easy to see that the two extra terms in eq. (5.8) compared to eq. (4.1) make a subleading contribution to the action by themselves. This is because both terms are quadratic in ϕ . Since ϕ is $O(1/r_h)$, eq. (5.11), it follows that these quadratic terms are suppressed compared to terms linear in the dilaton by $O(1/r_h)$.

In addition, as argued above, the bulk term going like ϕ^2 also causes a departure in the metric to leading order in $1/r_h$. However this correction to the metric can be neglected in computing the on shell action. The extra bulk term causes the metric of the black hole in the JT model, eq. (4.23), to be modified to

$$ds^2 = a(r)^2 dt^2 + a(r)^{-2} dr^2, \\ a(r)^2 = \frac{(r - r_h)^2}{L_2^2} \left[1 - \frac{4(r - r_h)}{3r_h} \right] - \frac{2G\delta M}{r_h} \left[1 - \frac{r - r_h}{r_h} \right] + O\left(\frac{1}{r_h^2}\right). \quad (5.13)$$

We see that the corrections due to the presence of the ϕ^2 term are suppressed by $O(1/r_h)$. As a result the extra terms in the action are also suppressed by $O(1/r_h)$. Note that the

¹²We will see below that the extra terms present in the action of this model, which are absent in the JT theory, do not contribute to the leading order behaviour at low energies. A striking fact about the JT model, as noted after eq. (4.39), is that the value for the dilaton obtained by solving for ϵ in eq. (4.35) automatically satisfies Dirichlet boundary conditions at the boundary. This feature also leads us to impose Dirichlet boundary conditions for the dilaton in the dimensionally reduced model.

¹³Also, since $L_2 \simeq \frac{L}{\sqrt{6}}$, we do not distinguish between these two scales for our parametric estimates here.

effect of the Weyl rescaling, eq. (5.5), in the computation of the action can be neglected for the same reason - it contributes terms which are suppressed.

Let us now argue why the four-point function for the probe scalar at leading order is the same as that in the JT theory. The probe scalar in the dimensionally reduced model also couples to the dilaton ϕ , this is the last term going like $\int \phi J$ in eq. (F.3) of appendix F. This gives rise to one additional term in the dimensionally reduced case, besides the two terms quadratic in ϕ present in eq. (5.8). All of these terms however only contribute to subleading order in $1/r_h$.

Let us start with the bulk term quadratic in ϕ present in eq. (5.8). The four-point function is obtained from the on-shell action quartic in σ . The dilaton solution sourced by σ takes the forms

$$\phi \sim \frac{L_2^2}{r_h z} (1 - \epsilon'(t)) + F[\sigma]. \quad (5.14)$$

This is discussed in eq. (F.17) of appendix F, with $F[\sigma]$ given by eq. (F.18), and being of order unity in the $1/r_h$ expansion. Since $\epsilon(t)$ is $O(r_h)$, eq. (4.35), we see that the $\epsilon(t)$ dependent term above is $O(r_h^0)$. Since the prefactor of the bulk term under question in the action eq. (5.8) goes like r_h^2 , it then follows that the contribution this term makes to the on-shell action also goes like r_h^2 . In contrast, we have seen from eq. (3.27), eq. (4.38) that the leading contribution goes like r_h^3 . Thus we see that this extra bulk term makes a contribution suppressed by $O(1/r_h)$.

The extra boundary term in eq. (5.8) which goes like $\int \sqrt{\gamma} \phi^2 K$ also makes a suppressed contribution. For example, taking ϕ to be its background value, eq. (5.11), gives a contribution suppressed by a factor of $1/r_h$ compared to the leading term which goes like $\int \sqrt{\gamma} \phi K$.

Finally, we consider the additional bulk term which arises due to the $\int \phi J$ coupling in the bulk, eq. (F.3). As argued above, $\phi \sim O(r_h^0)$, and J is also $O(r_h^0)$. Thus, taking the prefactor of this term which is $O(r_h^2)$ into account, we see that the net contribution it makes is $O(r_h^2)$, which is down compared to the leading term by a factor of $1/r_h$.

In summary, the extra terms which arise in the dimensionally reduced model can be neglected, compared to the terms present in the JT model, in calculating the thermodynamics at low temperatures and the response to a probe scalar at low frequencies, when working to leading order in L/r_h .

6 Conclusions

In this paper we have studied near-extremal black holes in asymptotically AdS_4 spacetime in the S -wave sector. These black holes arise in a theory consisting of gravity coupled to a Maxwell field. We analysed big black holes meeting the condition $r_h \gg L$, with r_h, L being the black hole horizon radius and the AdS radius respectively, eq. (2.11), and studied the near-extremal thermodynamics and the response of the black hole to a probe scalar field. We find that the dynamics, at low energies and to leading order in the parameter L/r_h , is well approximated by the Jackiw-Teitelboim theory of gravity.¹⁴ In fact, the low-energy

¹⁴The parameter $\frac{r_h}{L^2}$ in this system is analogous to the coefficient J of the four Fermi coupling in the SYK model, [4]. For an electrically charged black hole $\frac{r_h}{L^2}$ is of order μ - the chemical potential in the boundary theory.

dynamics is determined by symmetry considerations alone, with the JT theory being the simplest realisation of these symmetries.

Our analysis shows that the low-energy dynamics arises from the near-horizon AdS_2 region of the spacetime. This region has *in effect* a boundary where it glues into the asymptotic AdS_4 geometry. The boundary is located in the asymptotic AdS_2 region shown by the dashed line at $r = r_c$ in figure 1. Fluctuations of this boundary are related to time reparametrisations and determine the low-energy dynamics, at leading order. In order to be glued into the AdS_4 region the near-horizon geometry must depart from the attractor AdS_2 solution with a constant value of the dilaton. The resulting variation of the dilaton gives rise to an action for the fluctuations of the boundary which is determined by symmetry considerations to be the Schwarzian derivative of the time reparametrisations. The coupling of the probe scalar to the fluctuating boundary is also determined by symmetry considerations alone. The leading order behaviour we found then arises from the Schwarzian action coupled to the probe scalars in this way, just as in the JT model.

The Einstein-Maxwell system does differ from the JT model in some important aspects. In the JT model the geometry is locally identical to AdS_2 and only the dilaton departs from being a constant. In contrast, in the Einstein-Maxwell system the departure from the attractor solution arises both due to the dilaton being non-constant and the geometry departing from AdS_2 , and both these effects occur at linear order in the small parameter L/r_h . However, only the running of the dilaton is important, to leading order in L/r_h , in determining the low-energy response, since it is this effect, and not the departure of the geometry from AdS_2 , which gives rise to the Schwarzian action. Thus, differences between the JT model and the Einstein-Maxwell system become unimportant to leading order at low energies.

It will be worth checking how general our results are and whether agreement with the JT model, and related symmetry considerations, arises quite universally in near-extremal black holes. In particular, it will be worth investigating whether this agreement arises in black holes in other dimensions, for black holes in asymptotically flat space, and importantly, beyond the S-wave sector.

The microscopic models for extremal black holes in string theory are different from the SYK model. In particular, they involve matrix degrees of freedom, or gauge groups with bi-fundamental matter which are similar to matrix degrees in their large N behaviour. Our results show that at strong coupling these models must also exhibit the breaking of time reparametrisation symmetry and this breaking determines their low-energy dynamics. It will be worth checking if these results can be established directly by studying the large N limit of these models.

The universality with which the JT model arises also motivates a further study of its properties. In particular, it would be worth studying the quantum behaviour of this model in more detail. This can be done in the semi-classical limit by coupling the model to matter in a suitable large N limit, which retains the effects of the quantum stress tensor of the matter while keeping gravity classical [62]. And also more generally by attempting to quantize the full theory including gravity.

We hope to report on some of these directions in the future.

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A Details of 4D thermodynamic calculations

In this appendix, we give some details of the calculations involved in computing the partition function of AdS_4 RN black holes. We start with the Euclidean Einstein-Maxwell action (including the counterterms),

$$S_{\text{reg}} = -\frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{g}(R - 2\Lambda) - \frac{1}{8\pi G} \int d^3x \sqrt{\gamma} K + \frac{1}{4G} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} F^2 + \frac{1}{4\pi GL} \int d^3x \sqrt{\gamma} \left(1 + \frac{L^2}{4} R_3\right), \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where R_3 is the Ricci scalar of the boundary surface. In the second line, we have added the appropriate counter terms to make the full 4D action finite, see [70].

We take the metric to be the AdS_4 RN black hole metric,

$$ds^2 = a^2(r) dt^2 + a^{-2}(r) dr^2, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

$$a^2(r) = 1 - \frac{2GM}{r} + \frac{4\pi Q^2}{r^2} + \frac{r^2}{L^2}, \quad (\text{A.3})$$

and evaluate the action eq. (A.1). The r integral in the action goes from r_+ , which is the location of the outer horizon, to r_b , which is the AdS_4 boundary. We get

$$S_{\text{bulk}} = -\frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{g}(R - 2\Lambda) + \frac{1}{4G} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} F^2 = \frac{\beta}{2GL^2}(r_b^3 - r_+^3) + \frac{2\pi Q^2 \beta}{G} \frac{1}{r_+}, \quad (\text{A.4})$$

$$S_{\text{GH}} = -\frac{1}{8\pi G} \int d^3x \sqrt{\gamma} K = \left(\frac{3M}{2} - \frac{r_b}{G} - \frac{3r_b^3}{2GL^2} \right) \beta, \quad (\text{A.5})$$

$$S_{ct} = \frac{1}{4\pi GL} \int d^3x \sqrt{\gamma} \left(1 + \frac{L^2}{4} R_3 \right) = \left(-M + \frac{r_b}{G} + \frac{r_b^3}{GL^2} \right) \beta, \quad (\text{A.6})$$

$$\Rightarrow S_{\text{reg}} = S_{\text{bulk}} + S_{\text{GH}} + S_{ct} = \left(\frac{M}{2} - \frac{r_+^3}{2GL^2} + \frac{2\pi Q^2}{G} \frac{1}{r_+} \right) \beta. \quad (\text{A.7})$$

To calculate the temperature, we take the near-horizon limit of (A.2),

$$\begin{aligned} a^2(r_+ + \rho^2) &= a^2(r_+) + \rho^2 \frac{da^2}{dr} \Big|_{r_+} = \rho^2 \frac{da^2}{dr} \Big|_{r_+} \\ &= \rho^2 \left(\frac{2GM}{r_+^2} - \frac{8\pi Q^2}{r_+^3} + \frac{2r_+}{L^2} \right) \equiv \rho^2 a_2. \end{aligned}$$

The metric becomes

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= \rho^2 a_2 dt^2 + \frac{4}{a_2} d\rho^2 = \frac{4}{a_2} \left(\frac{a_2^2}{4} \rho^2 dt^2 + d\rho^2 \right) \\ \Rightarrow T &= \frac{a_2}{4\pi} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{GM}{r_+^2} - \frac{4\pi Q^2}{r_+^3} + \frac{r_+}{L^2} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.8})$$

Now we can compute the entropy using the action (A.7) and (A.8). We have

$$S_{\text{ent}} = \beta M - S_{\text{reg}} = \left(\frac{M}{2} + \frac{r_+^3}{2GL^2} - \frac{2\pi Q^2}{G} \frac{1}{r_+} \right) \beta = \frac{\pi r_+^2}{G}. \quad (\text{A.9})$$

B 4D calculation of the four-point function

In this section we show some of the details involved in the computation of the on-shell action (3.18). We start with a general background,

$$ds^2 = a^2(r) dt^2 + \frac{1}{a^2(r)} dr^2 + b^2(r)(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\varphi^2), \quad (\text{B.1})$$

to which we add spherically symmetric perturbations described by (3.16). The stress energy tensor has components T_{tt} , T_{rr} , T_{tr} , $T_{\theta\theta}$ and $T_{\varphi\varphi}$, with each component being a function only of t and r . Also, due to spherical symmetry we have $T_{\varphi\varphi} = T_{\theta\theta} \sin^2\theta$.

The on-shell action with a probe scalar field is

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \frac{1}{4} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \delta g^{\mu\nu} T_{\mu\nu} \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left(\frac{1}{a^2} h_{tt} T_{tt} + \frac{1}{b^2} h_{\theta\theta} T_{\theta\theta} + \frac{1}{b^2 \sin^2\theta} h_{\theta\theta} T_{\varphi\varphi} \right) \\ &= -\pi \int dt dr \left(\frac{b^2}{a^2} h_{tt} T_{tt} + 2h_{\theta\theta} T_{\theta\theta} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.2})$$

where in the last line we have integrated over θ, φ . We have also made the gauge choice $h_{rr} = h_{tr} = 0$ in writing the above expression. Let us manipulate the above action and

write it in a form manifestly local in r and only in terms of the stress tensor components by eliminating the metric perturbations.

The equations for the perturbations are

$$a^4 \partial_r^2 h_{\theta\theta} + a^4 \left(\frac{a'}{a} + \frac{3b'}{b} \right) \partial_r h_{\theta\theta} + \frac{a^2}{b^2} \left(1 - \frac{8\pi Q^2}{b^2} \right) h_{\theta\theta} = 8\pi G T_{tt}, \quad (\text{B.3})$$

$$\left(\frac{a'}{a} - \frac{b'}{b} \right) \partial_t h_{\theta\theta} - \partial_t \partial_r h_{\theta\theta} = 8\pi G T_{tr}, \quad (\text{B.4})$$

$$\frac{1}{a^4} \partial_t^2 h_{\theta\theta} + \left(\frac{a'}{a} + \frac{b'}{b} \right) \partial_r h_{\theta\theta} + \frac{b'}{b} \partial_r h_{tt} + \frac{1}{a^2 b^2} \left(1 - \frac{8\pi Q^2}{b^2} \right) h_{\theta\theta} = 8\pi G T_{rr}, \quad (\text{B.5})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{b^2}{a^2} \partial_t^2 h_{\theta\theta} + a^2 b^2 (\partial_r^2 h_{\theta\theta} + \partial_r^2 h_{tt}) + 2a^2 b^2 \left(\frac{a'}{a} + \frac{b'}{b} \right) \partial_r h_{\theta\theta} \\ + a^2 b^2 \left(\frac{3a'}{a} + \frac{b'}{b} \right) \partial_r h_{tt} + \frac{16\pi Q^2}{b^2} h_{\theta\theta} = 16\pi G T_{\theta\theta}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.6})$$

where a prime $'$ denotes a derivative w.r.t. r .

The background equations relate a , b , Λ and Q ,

$$a^2 b'^2 - 1 + \Lambda b^2 + 2aba'b' + \frac{4\pi Q^2}{b^2} = 0, \quad (\text{B.7})$$

$$a'^2 b^2 + \Lambda b^2 + a^2 b^2 \left(\frac{a''}{a} + \frac{2a'b'}{ab} \right) - \frac{4\pi Q^2}{b^2} = 0, \quad (\text{B.8})$$

$$b'' = 0. \quad (\text{B.9})$$

Also, we have two conservation equations for the stress tensor,

$$\frac{1}{a^2} \partial_t T_{tt} + a^2 \partial_r T_{tr} = -2a^2 \left(\frac{a'}{a} + \frac{b'}{b} \right) T_{tr}, \quad (\text{B.10})$$

$$\frac{1}{a^2} \partial_t T_{tr} + a^2 \partial_r T_{rr} = -a^2 \left(\frac{2b'}{b} + \frac{3a'}{a} \right) T_{rr} + \frac{a'}{a^3} T_{tt} + \frac{2b'}{b^3} T_{\theta\theta}. \quad (\text{B.11})$$

Let us combine (B.7) and (B.8) to eliminate Λ to find

$$b^2 a'^2 - a^2 b'^2 + a^2 b^2 \frac{a''}{a} + 1 - \frac{8\pi Q^2}{b^2} = 0. \quad (\text{B.12})$$

Now, we solve for $\partial_r h_{\theta\theta}$ using (B.4),

$$\partial_r h_{\theta\theta} = \left(\frac{a'}{a} - \frac{b'}{b} \right) h_{\theta\theta} - \partial_t^{-1} \tau_{tr}, \quad (\text{B.13})$$

where for convenience we have defined $\tau_{\mu\nu}$ as

$$\tau_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}. \quad (\text{B.14})$$

Plugging (B.13) into (B.5), we find that $\partial_r h_{tt}$ is

$$\partial_r h_{tt} = \frac{b}{b'} \left[\tau_{rr} - \frac{1}{a^4} \partial_t^2 h_{\theta\theta} + \frac{a''}{a} h_{\theta\theta} + \left(\frac{a'}{a} + \frac{b'}{b} \right) \partial_t^{-1} \tau_{tr} \right]. \quad (\text{B.15})$$

Here, we've used the combined background equation (B.12) to simplify the coefficient of $h_{\theta\theta}$. In terms of $\tau_{\mu\nu}$, the on-shell action (B.2) is

$$S = -\frac{1}{8G} \int dt dr \left(\frac{b^2}{a^2} h_{tt} \tau_{tt} + 2h_{\theta\theta} \tau_{\theta\theta} \right). \quad (\text{B.16})$$

We can manipulate the first term as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{b^2}{a^2} h_{tt} \tau_{tt} &= \int \frac{b^2}{a^2} h_{tt} \partial_t^{-1} \partial_t \tau_{tt} \\ &= - \int h_{tt} \partial_t^{-1} \partial_r \{ a^2 b^2 \tau_{tr} \} \quad (\text{using (B.10)}) \\ &= \int a^2 b^2 \partial_r h_{tt} \partial_t^{-1} \tau_{tr} \\ &= \int a^2 \frac{b^3}{b'} \left[\tau_{rr} - \frac{1}{a^4} \partial_t^2 h_{\theta\theta} + \frac{a''}{a} h_{\theta\theta} + \left(\frac{a'}{a} + \frac{b'}{b} \right) \partial_t^{-1} \tau_{tr} \right] \partial_t^{-1} \tau_{tr} \quad (\text{using (B.15)}). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.17})$$

The first and last terms are manifestly local in r , so we can leave them as it is now. We further manipulate the term involving $\partial_t^2 h_{\theta\theta}$:

$$\begin{aligned} - \int \frac{b^3}{a^2 b'} \partial_t^2 h_{\theta\theta} \partial_t^{-1} \tau_{tr} &= - \int \frac{b^3}{a^2 b'} h_{\theta\theta} \partial_t \tau_{tr} \\ &= \int h_{\theta\theta} \left\{ \partial_r \left(\frac{a^2 b^3}{b'} \tau_{rr} \right) + \frac{a^2 b^3}{b'} \left(\frac{a'}{a} - \frac{b'}{b} \right) \tau_{rr} - \frac{b^3 a'}{a^3 b'} \tau_{tt} - 2\tau_{\theta\theta} \right\} \\ &\quad (\text{using (B.11) and (B.9)}) \\ &= \int \frac{a^2 b^3}{b'} \left\{ -\partial_r h_{\theta\theta} + \left(\frac{a'}{a} - \frac{b'}{b} \right) h_{\theta\theta} \right\} \tau_{rr} - 2 \int h_{\theta\theta} \tau_{\theta\theta} - \int \frac{b^3 a'}{a^3 b'} h_{\theta\theta} \tau_{tt} \\ &= \int \frac{a^2 b^3}{b'} \tau_{rr} \partial_t^{-1} \tau_{tr} - 2 \int h_{\theta\theta} \tau_{\theta\theta} - \int \frac{b^3 a'}{a^3 b'} h_{\theta\theta} \tau_{tt} \quad (\text{using (B.13)}). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.18})$$

The first term is local in r and the second term cancels the original $h_{\theta\theta} \tau_{\theta\theta}$ term in the action eq. (B.16), so we proceed only with the third term.

$$\begin{aligned} - \int \frac{b^3 a'}{a^3 b'} h_{\theta\theta} \tau_{tt} &= - \int \frac{b^3 a'}{a^3 b'} h_{\theta\theta} \partial_t^{-1} \partial_t \tau_{tt} \\ &= \int \frac{b a'}{a b'} h_{\theta\theta} \partial_t^{-1} \partial_r (a^2 b^2 \tau_{tr}) \quad (\text{using (B.10)}) \\ &= - \int \frac{a b^3 a'}{b'} \partial_r h_{\theta\theta} \partial_t^{-1} \tau_{tr} - \int a^2 b^2 \partial_r \left(\frac{b a'}{a b'} \right) h_{\theta\theta} \partial_t^{-1} \tau_{tr} \\ &= \int a^2 b^2 \frac{b a'}{a b'} (\partial_t^{-1} \tau_{tr})^2 - \int \frac{a b^3}{b'} a'' h_{\theta\theta} \partial_t^{-1} \tau_{tr} \quad (\text{using (B.13) and (B.9)}). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.19})$$

The second term here precisely cancels the corresponding term in the last line of (B.17), and so we are only left with manifestly r -local terms. The final expression for the action

becomes

$$S = -8\pi^2 G \int dt dr \left(\frac{2a^2 b^3}{b'} T_{rr} \frac{1}{\partial_t} T_{tr} - a^2 b^2 \left(1 + \frac{2a'b}{b'a} \right) T_{tr} \frac{1}{\partial_t^2} T_{tr} \right), \quad (\text{B.20})$$

which agrees with eq. (3.18).

In the region where the frequency dependence can be ignored, the solution for the probe field σ is given by eq. (3.13). Such a form of the solution when substituted into eq. (B.20) would give a contact term for the four-point function. To see this, consider the second term in the action eq. (B.20) which is quadratic in T_{tr} ,

$$\begin{aligned} \int dt T_{tr} \frac{1}{\partial_t^2} T_{tr} &\sim \int dt d\omega_1 d\omega_2 d\omega_3 d\omega_4 \frac{\omega_1 \omega_3}{(\omega_3 + \omega_4)^2} \sigma(\omega_1) \sigma(\omega_2) \sigma(\omega_3) \sigma(\omega_4) e^{i(\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \omega_3 + \omega_4)t} \\ &\sim \int dt_1 dt_2 \partial_{t_1} \sigma(t_1) \sigma(t_2) \delta(t_1 - t_2) \\ &\quad \times \int dt_3 dt_4 d\omega_3 d\omega_4 \frac{\omega_3}{(\omega_3 + \omega_4)^2} \sigma(t_3) \sigma(t_4) e^{i\omega_3(t_1 - t_3)} e^{i\omega_4(t_1 - t_4)}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.21})$$

where we have used eq. (3.14) and eq. (3.15). Note that we haven't been careful about keeping track of the r dependence. Similarly, one can verify that we get an answer proportional to $\delta(t_1 - t_2)$ for the second term in the action eq. (B.20) as well. Therefore, we see that the term in the action proportional to $\sigma(t_1) \sigma(t_2) \sigma(t_3) \sigma(t_4)$ will be non-zero only if $t_1 = t_2$, which makes it a contact term.

C Relating the sources at the AdS₄ boundary and the near-horizon AdS₂ boundary

In this appendix, we will provide some details involved in relating the scalar sources at the AdS₄ screen and the asymptotic AdS₂ screen.

Since the scalar field satisfies a second order equation, two pieces of data are required to fix it. These are provided by the boundary condition eq. (3.7) at the AdS₄ boundary, and the horizon. For example, in Euclidean space, which we focus on here for concreteness,¹⁵ the scalar field is regular at the horizon and does not blow up, and near the AdS₄ boundary behaves like eq. (3.7). Once the solution is fixed, its value at $r = r_c$ can be determined.

In the asymptotic AdS₂ region where r_c is located, eq. (3.19) and eq. (3.20), the scalar field can have two asymptotic behaviours,

$$\sigma \rightarrow (r - r_h)^{\tilde{\Delta}_{\pm}}. \quad (\text{C.1})$$

Here $\tilde{\Delta}_{\pm}$ are the two characteristic fall-offs towards the boundary, corresponding to the non-normalisable and normalisable modes for a field of mass m in the AdS₂ spacetime,

$$\tilde{\Delta}_{\pm} = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 4m^2 L_2^2}}{2}. \quad (\text{C.2})$$

¹⁵The usual continuation to Minkowski time gives the time-ordered Feynman correlators; however one can also obtain other correlators after a suitable analytic continuation from the Euclidean theory.

A general solution will go like

$$\sigma \rightarrow A \left[\left(\frac{r-r_h}{\omega} \right)^{\tilde{\Delta}^+} + B \left(\frac{r-r_h}{\omega} \right)^{\tilde{\Delta}^-} \right]. \quad (\text{C.3})$$

A , the coefficient of the non-normalisable AdS_2 mode, acts effectively like the source in the near-horizon theory.

Next we turn to the horizon. Regularity at the horizon tells us that the coefficient B is independent of ω . It then follows that the coefficient of the normalisable mode on the r.h.s. of eq. (C.3) is suppressed compared to the coefficient of the non-normalisable mode by a factor of $\omega^{\tilde{\Delta}}$, where

$$\tilde{\Delta} = \tilde{\Delta}_+ - \tilde{\Delta}_-. \quad (\text{C.4})$$

At finite but small temperature, both temperature and frequency will enter in this ratio of coefficients in a combination whose overall power is still $\tilde{\Delta}$, so that the normalisable term above continues to be suppressed compared to the non-normalisable one.

To make the suppression of the normalisable mode manifest, we rewrite eq. (C.3) as

$$\sigma \rightarrow C [(r-r_h)^{\tilde{\Delta}^+} + B \omega^{\tilde{\Delta}} (r-r_h)^{\tilde{\Delta}^-}], \quad (\text{C.5})$$

where

$$C = \frac{A}{\omega^{\tilde{\Delta}_+}}. \quad (\text{C.6})$$

Note that C is ω dependent, while B is ω independent.

In evolving the solution eq. (C.5) from the asymptotic AdS_2 region to the AdS_4 boundary the frequency term in eq. (3.3) can be neglected. Therefore the contribution of the normalisable mode can continue to be neglected for $r > r_c$. For purposes of determining the solution in this region we can therefore approximate eq. (C.5) as

$$\sigma \simeq C (r-r_h)^{\tilde{\Delta}^+} \quad (\text{C.7})$$

in the asymptotic AdS_2 region.

Now suppose the non-normalisable mode in AdS_2 , going like $(r-r_h)^{\tilde{\Delta}^+}$, in the asymptotic AdS_4 region becomes

$$(r-r_h)^{\tilde{\Delta}^+} \rightarrow \alpha \left(\frac{r}{L^2} \right)^{\Delta^+} + \beta \left(\frac{r}{L^2} \right)^{\Delta^-}, \quad (\text{C.8})$$

then using eq. (C.7) we get that

$$\sigma \rightarrow C \alpha \left(\frac{r}{L^2} \right)^{\Delta^+}. \quad (\text{C.9})$$

Comparing with eq. (3.7), we see that C is given in terms of the source term at the AdS_4 boundary by

$$C(\omega) = \frac{\sigma(\omega)}{\alpha}. \quad (\text{C.10})$$

The multiplicative factor relating the two sources we talked about in section 3 is α . This depends on the parameters Q_m, L of the solution, which determine the interpolation for $r > r_c$, but is independent of ω . Once C is fixed in terms of $\sigma(\omega)$ the solution in the region $r \leq r_c$ is determined; in particular the asymptotic behaviour eq. (C.5) is fixed, since the coefficient B is determined by the scalar equation of motion and regularity at the horizon.

The final result then is that for calculating the four-point function we can carry out the integral eq. (3.18) from the horizon to $r = r_c$ located in the asymptotic AdS_2 region, eq. (3.19) and eq. (3.20). The stress tensor in the integral is determined by the scalar field which satisfies the equation of motion and meets the boundary conditions of regularity at the horizon, and is of the form eq. (C.5) in the asymptotic AdS_2 region, with C given in terms of the source in the field theory by eq. (C.10).

D Thermodynamics of the JT model

In this appendix, we give some details of the calculation of the on-shell action in the JT model with the metric eq. (4.23). The bulk term vanishes from the equation of motion and we are left with the following terms,

$$S_{\text{JT}} = -\frac{r_h^2}{4G} \left(\int d^2x \sqrt{g} R + 2 \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} K \right) - \frac{r_h^2}{G} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \phi K + \frac{r_h^2}{GL_2} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \phi. \quad (\text{D.1})$$

Let us now evaluate each term of the action. The integral over r runs from the horizon $r = r_h + \delta r_h$ to the boundary $r = r_c$.

The topological term in the action gives

$$S_{\text{top}} = -\frac{r_h^2}{4G} \left(\int d^2x \sqrt{g} R + 2 \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} K \right) = -\frac{\beta \delta r_h r_h^2}{2GL_2^2}. \quad (\text{D.2})$$

The contribution to the topological piece comes only from the horizon; the boundary terms cancel between the bulk and the extrinsic curvature term.

To simplify the expression eq. (D.2), we relate δr_h and β . From eq. (A.8), the temperature is

$$T = \frac{1}{4\pi} \partial_r (a^2)|_{r_+} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{2\delta r_h}{L_2^2}. \quad (\text{D.3})$$

Therefore from eq. (D.3) and eq. (D.2), we get

$$S_{\text{top}} = \frac{\pi r_h^2}{G}. \quad (\text{D.4})$$

We see that the topological piece gives the extremal entropy as expected.

Let us now compute the boundary term. We get

$$S_{\text{bdy}} = -\frac{r_h^2}{G} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \phi K = -\left(\frac{\beta r_h}{GL_2^2} \right) (r_c - r_h)^2. \quad (\text{D.5})$$

This term is divergent and is canceled by adding the counter term eq. (4.3), which gives

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{count}} &= \frac{r_h^2}{GL_2} \int_{\text{bdy}} \sqrt{\gamma} \phi \\ &= \frac{\beta r_h}{GL_2^2} (r_c - r_h)^2 - \beta \delta M. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{D.6})$$

Combining eq. (D.4), eq. (D.5) and eq. (D.6), we get the on-shell action

$$S_{\text{JT}} = -\beta \delta M - \frac{\pi r_h^2}{G}. \quad (\text{D.7})$$

E Coupling between the probe field σ and the ϵ modes for JT model

In this appendix, we derive the coupling between the time reparametrisation modes $\epsilon(t)$ and the probe scalar field σ in the JT model. Consider the matter action for the JT model,

$$\begin{aligned} S_\sigma &= 2\pi r_h^2 \int d^2x \sqrt{g} ((\partial\sigma)^2 + m^2 \sigma^2) \\ &= -2\pi r_h^2 \int_{\text{bdy}} \sigma \partial_z \sigma. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.1})$$

Near the boundary $\sigma(\omega, z)$ has a power law behaviour,

$$\sigma(\omega, z) = \sigma(\omega) z^{\Delta_-} + C \omega^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-} \sigma(\omega) z^{\Delta_+}. \quad (\text{E.2})$$

Here C is a constant. Δ_\pm are defined as follows,

$$\Delta_\pm = \frac{1}{2} \pm \sqrt{m^2 L_2^2 + \frac{1}{4}}. \quad (\text{E.3})$$

We impose Dirichlet boundary condition on σ at the boundary $z = \delta$, and demand that at the boundary $\sigma = \sigma(\omega) \delta^{\Delta_-}$. Therefore we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(\omega, z) &= \sigma(\omega) \delta^{\Delta_-} \left(\frac{z^{\Delta_-} + C \omega^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-} z^{\Delta_+}}{\delta^{\Delta_-} + C \omega^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-} \delta^{\Delta_+}} \right) \\ &\simeq \sigma(\omega) (z^{\Delta_-} + C \omega^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-} z^{\Delta_+}) (1 - C \omega^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-} \delta^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-}) \\ \Rightarrow \sigma(t, z) &\simeq \sigma_-(t) z^{\Delta_-} + C (z^{\Delta_+} - z^{\Delta_-} \delta^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-}) \sigma_+(t), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.4})$$

where in going to the second line we Taylor expanded the denominator in powers of δ . Here $\sigma_-(t)$ and $\sigma_+(t)$ are defined as

$$\sigma_-(t) = \int d\omega \sigma(\omega) e^{i\omega t}, \quad (\text{E.5})$$

$$\sigma_+(t) = c_1 \int dt' \frac{\sigma_-(t')}{|t - t'|^{2\Delta_+}}. \quad (\text{E.6})$$

Here,

$$\sigma_+(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int d\omega dt' \sigma_-(t') \omega^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-} e^{i\omega(t-t')}, \quad (\text{E.7})$$

and we take

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int d\omega e^{i\omega(t-t')} \omega^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-} = \frac{c_1}{|t-t'|^{2\Delta_+}}, \quad (\text{E.8})$$

where c_1 is a constant. We now introduce fluctuations in the boundary by going to the new coordinate system (\hat{t}, \hat{z}) defined via

$$\begin{aligned} t &= \hat{t} + \epsilon(\hat{t}), \\ z &= \hat{z}(1 + \epsilon'(\hat{t})). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.9})$$

The boundary is now located at $\hat{z} = \delta$. The solution for σ , eq. (E.4), becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\sigma}(\hat{t}, \hat{z}) &= \hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t}) \hat{z}^{\Delta_-} + C \left((1 + \epsilon'(\hat{t}))^{\Delta_+} \hat{z}^{\Delta_+} - (1 + \epsilon'(\hat{t}))^{\Delta_-} \hat{z}^{\Delta_-} \delta^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-} \right) \hat{\sigma}_+(\hat{t}) \\ &\approx \hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t}) \hat{z}^{\Delta_-} + C \left((1 + \Delta_+ \epsilon'(\hat{t})) \hat{z}^{\Delta_+} - (1 + \Delta_- \epsilon'(\hat{t})) \hat{z}^{\Delta_-} \delta^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-} \right) \hat{\sigma}_+(\hat{t}), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.10})$$

where in the second line we have expanded to linear order in $\epsilon(\hat{t})$. Here $\hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t})$ and $\hat{\sigma}_+(\hat{t})$ are defined as follows,

$$\hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t}) = \sigma_-(t(\hat{t})) (1 + \epsilon'(\hat{t}))^{\Delta_-}, \quad (\text{E.11})$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_+(\hat{t}) = c_1 \int dt' \frac{\hat{\sigma}_-(t')(1 + \epsilon'(t'))^{\Delta_+}}{|\hat{t} + \epsilon(\hat{t}) - t' - \epsilon(t')|^{2\Delta_+}}. \quad (\text{E.12})$$

The solution eq. (E.10) at the new boundary $\hat{z} = \delta$ becomes

$$\hat{\sigma}(\hat{t}, \delta) = \hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t}) \delta^{\Delta_-} + C (\Delta_+ - \Delta_-) \epsilon'(\hat{t}) \hat{\sigma}_+(\hat{t}) \delta^{\Delta_+}. \quad (\text{E.13})$$

We have to impose the appropriate Dirichlet boundary condition for the new solution at the transformed boundary, namely, we require $\hat{\sigma}(\hat{t}, \delta) = \hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t}) \delta^{\Delta_-}$. In order to do this, we note that $\hat{\sigma}$ is a solution to a linear differential equation and hence we can add a term $\delta \hat{\sigma}(\hat{t}, \hat{z}) = \delta \hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t}) \hat{z}^{\Delta_-}$ to eq. (E.10), where $\delta \hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t})$ is fixed by demanding that at the boundary $\hat{\sigma}$ has the correct boundary condition. Therefore we require,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t}) \delta^{\Delta_-} + C (\Delta_+ - \Delta_-) \epsilon'(\hat{t}) \hat{\sigma}_+(\hat{t}) \delta^{\Delta_+} &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \delta \hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t}) &= -C (\Delta_+ - \Delta_-) \epsilon'(\hat{t}) \hat{\sigma}_+(\hat{t}) \delta^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.14})$$

Note that we should also add a term going like $\delta \hat{\sigma}_+(\hat{t}) \hat{z}^{\Delta_+}$ to eq. (E.10) to obtain a solution to the scalar equation meeting the regularity condition in the interior. However, this would give a sub-dominant contribution compared to $\delta \hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t}) \hat{z}^{\Delta_-}$ and we ignore it.

Adding $\delta \hat{\sigma}(\hat{t}, \hat{z})$ to eq. (E.10), and using eq. (E.14), we get

$$\hat{\sigma}(\hat{t}, \hat{z}) = \hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t}) \hat{z}^{\Delta_-} + C (1 + \Delta_+ \epsilon'(\hat{t})) (\hat{z}^{\Delta_+} - \hat{z}^{\Delta_-} \delta^{\Delta_+ - \Delta_-}) \hat{\sigma}_+(\hat{t}). \quad (\text{E.15})$$

Now we compute the on-shell action by plugging eq. (E.15) into (E.1). We get

$$\begin{aligned} S_\sigma &= -2\pi r_h^2 \int d\hat{t} \left(\hat{\sigma}_-(\hat{t}) C (1 + \Delta_+ \epsilon'(\hat{t})) (\Delta_+ - \Delta_-) \hat{\sigma}_+(\hat{t}) \right) \\ &= 2\pi r_h^2 C (\Delta_- - \Delta_+) \int dt_1 dt_2 \frac{\hat{\sigma}_-(t_1) \hat{\sigma}_-(t_2) (1 + \Delta_+ \epsilon'(t_1)) (1 + \Delta_+ \epsilon'(t_2))}{|t_1 + \epsilon(t_1) - t_2 - \epsilon(t_2)|^{2\Delta_+}}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.16})$$

where in the first line we have dropped contact terms, and in the second line we have used eq. (E.12). Also we have absorbed c_1 into the constant C .

We now expand eq. (E.16) to linear order in $\epsilon(t)$ to get

$$S_\sigma = 4\pi r_h^2 C \Delta_+ (\Delta_- - \Delta_+) \int dt_1 dt_2 \frac{\hat{\sigma}_-(t_1) \hat{\sigma}_-(t_2)}{|t_1 - t_2|^{2\Delta_+}} \left(\epsilon'(t_1) - 2 \frac{\epsilon(t_1)}{|t_1 - t_2|} \right). \quad (\text{E.17})$$

Let us now express the action eq. (E.17) in terms of the stress tensor components eq. (4.29). To the order we are working we can use the solution eq. (E.4), where the boundary is not fluctuating, to express the stress tensor components in terms of σ . The correction due the boundary fluctuations are higher order and will not be relevant for the four-point function.

Therefore using eq. (E.4) and eq. (4.29), we get

$$T_{zz} \Big|_{\text{bdy}} = C (\Delta_+ \Delta_- - \Delta_-^2) \sigma_-(t) \frac{1}{\delta} \int dt' \frac{\sigma_-(t')}{|t - t'|^{2\Delta_+}}, \quad (\text{E.18})$$

$$T_{tz} \Big|_{\text{bdy}} = C (\Delta_+ - \Delta_-) \sigma'_-(t) \int dt' \frac{\sigma_-(t')}{|t - t'|^{2\Delta_+}}, \quad (\text{E.19})$$

where we have again absorbed c_1 into C . Now consider the quantity

$$\int dt (\epsilon'(t) z T_{zz} + \epsilon(t) T_{tz}). \quad (\text{E.20})$$

Expressing this in terms of σ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int dt (\epsilon'(t) z T_{zz} + \epsilon(t) T_{tz}) &= \int dt \left(C (\Delta_+ \Delta_- - \Delta_-^2) \epsilon'(t) \sigma_-(t) \int dt' \frac{\sigma_-(t')}{|t - t'|^{2\Delta_+}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + C (\Delta_+ - \Delta_-) \epsilon(t) \sigma'_-(t) \int dt' \frac{\sigma_-(t')}{|t - t'|^{2\Delta_+}} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.21})$$

We now do integration by parts in the second line to remove the derivative on $\sigma_-(t)$. After some simplifications, we get

$$\int dt (\epsilon'(t) z T_{zz} + \epsilon(t) T_{tz}) = C \Delta_+ (\Delta_- - \Delta_+) \int dt_1 dt_2 \frac{\sigma_-(t_1) \sigma_-(t_2)}{|t_1 - t_2|^{2\Delta_+}} \left(\epsilon'(t_1) - 2 \frac{\epsilon(t_1)}{|t_1 - t_2|} \right). \quad (\text{E.22})$$

Comparing the expression eq. (E.22) with the action eq. (E.17) and ignoring corrections of $O(\epsilon^2)$, we get

$$S_\sigma = 4\pi r_h^2 \int dt (\epsilon'(t) z T_{zz} + \epsilon(t) T_{tz}). \quad (\text{E.23})$$

F Dimensional reduction with sources

In section 5, we studied the two-dimensional theory obtained by dimensional reduction of the action eq. (5.1). Let us now add a scalar field to the action and see how the solutions for the dilaton and metric perturbations get modified with a source.

We add the following term to the action eq. (5.1),

$$\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{\hat{g}} \left((\nabla \sigma)^2 + m^2 \sigma^2 \right). \quad (\text{F.1})$$

We then perform the dimensional reduction of the complete action following the steps in section 5. The final bulk action quadratic in perturbations of the dilaton, eq. (5.7), and the perturbations of metric,

$$ds^2 = \frac{L_2^2}{z^2} (\delta_{\alpha\beta} + h_{\alpha\beta}), \quad (\text{F.2})$$

and with the source σ is

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{bulk}} = & -\frac{r_h^2}{4G} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} R - \frac{r_h^2}{2G} \int d^2x \phi \left[-\partial^2 h + \partial_\alpha \partial_\beta h_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{\partial_z h}{z} + \frac{2h_{zz}}{z^2} - \frac{2}{z} \partial_\alpha h_{\alpha z} \right] \\ & + \frac{3r_h^2 \kappa}{G} \int d^2x \frac{\phi^2}{z^2} - 2\pi r_h^2 \int d^2x h_{\alpha\beta} T^{\alpha\beta} + 4\pi r_h^2 \int d^2x \phi J, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{F.3})$$

where the sources $T_{\alpha\beta}$ and J are given by

$$T_{\alpha\beta} = \partial_\alpha \sigma \partial_\beta \sigma - \frac{1}{2} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \left(\delta^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \sigma \partial_\nu \sigma + \frac{L_2^2}{z^2} m^2 \sigma^2 \right), \quad (\text{F.4})$$

$$J = \delta^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \sigma \partial_\nu \sigma + \frac{1}{2} \frac{L_2^2}{z^2} m^2 \sigma^2. \quad (\text{F.5})$$

Here, the stress tensor components satisfy the conservation equations

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t T_{tt} &= -\partial_z T_{zt}, \\ \partial_t T_{zt} &= -\partial_z T_{zz} - \frac{1}{z} (T_{tt} + T_{zz}). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{F.6})$$

Varying ϕ in the action eq. (F.3), we get an equation for $h_{\alpha\beta}$ which in the Fefferman-Graham gauge, $h_{tz} = h_{zz} = 0$, is

$$\partial_z^2 h_{tt} - \frac{1}{z} \partial_z h_{tt} = -12\kappa \frac{\phi}{z^2} - 8\pi G J, \quad (\text{F.7})$$

where κ is given in eq. (5.9); for a large black hole $\kappa = \frac{2}{3}$. Similarly, variation with respect to the metric fluctuations gives us the following equations for ϕ ,

$$\partial_z^2 \phi + \partial_z \left(\frac{\phi}{z} \right) = 4\pi G T_{tt}, \quad (\text{F.8})$$

$$\partial_t^2 \phi - \partial_z \left(\frac{\phi}{z} \right) - \frac{2\phi}{z^2} = 4\pi G T_{zz}, \quad (\text{F.9})$$

$$\partial_t \partial_z \phi + \partial_t \left(\frac{\phi}{z} \right) = -4\pi G T_{tz}. \quad (\text{F.10})$$

Eq. (F.8) can be solved to give

$$\phi = \frac{4\pi G}{z} \int_{\infty}^z z' \int_{\infty}^{z'} T_{tt}(t, z'') dz'' dz' + C_1(t)z + \frac{C_2(t)}{z}, \quad (\text{F.11})$$

where we have set the lower limit of integrations to ∞ by introducing two z independent integration constants $C_1(t)$ and $C_2(t)$. These can be fixed using the constraint equations eq. (F.9) and eq. (F.10) to be of the form,

$$C_1(t)z + \frac{C_2(t)}{z} = \frac{d_0(t^2 + z^2) + d_1t + c_2}{z}. \quad (\text{F.12})$$

Requiring regularity at the horizon, $z = \infty$, and the initial condition that ϕ must take its background value at $t \rightarrow -\infty$, sets $d_0, d_1 = 0$, leading to

$$\phi = \frac{4\pi G}{z} \int_{\infty}^z z' \int_{\infty}^{z'} T_{tt}(t, z'') dz'' dz' + \frac{c_2}{z}. \quad (\text{F.13})$$

The value of c_2 can be fixed to be $\frac{L_2^2}{r_h}$ by examining the leading deviation of the dilaton from its unperturbed value, see eq. (4.22).

Plugging in the solution for ϕ , eq. (F.13), into eq. (F.7) gives

$$\begin{aligned} h_{tt} = & -48\pi G\kappa \int_{\infty}^z z_1 \int_{\infty}^{z_1} \frac{1}{z_2^4} \int_{\infty}^{z_2} z_3 \int_{\infty}^{z_3} T_{tt}(t, z_4) dz_4 dz_3 dz_2 dz_1 \\ & - 8\pi G \int_{\infty}^z z' \int_{\infty}^{z'} \frac{J(t, z'')}{z''} dz'' dz' - \frac{4c_2\kappa}{z} + K_1(t)z^2 + K_2(t). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{F.14})$$

The integration constants $K_1(t), K_2(t)$ set the integration limits to ∞ . $K_2(t)$ can be done away by a scaling of time coordinate. $K_1(t)$ corresponds to the time-reparametrisation modes discussed in section 5.

It will be useful to express the solution for the dilaton in a different way. We can write eq. (F.10) as

$$\partial_z \phi + \frac{\phi}{z} = -4\pi G \frac{1}{\partial_t} T_{tz}. \quad (\text{F.15})$$

This equation should be thought of in ω space.

Combining eq. (F.15) with eq. (F.9), we get

$$\phi = \frac{4\pi G}{z} \left(z \frac{1}{\partial_t^2} T_{zz} - \frac{1}{\partial_t^3} T_{tz} \right) + \frac{L_2^2}{r_h z}. \quad (\text{F.16})$$

Here we have included the background solution for ϕ , see eq. (F.13). Once corrections to the metric are added, eq. (4.9), eq. (4.10), to incorporate fluctuations in the boundary, ϕ to the leading order in the stress tensor becomes

$$\phi = \frac{4\pi G}{z} \left(z \frac{1}{\partial_t^2} T_{zz} - \frac{1}{\partial_t^3} T_{tz} \right) + \frac{L_2^2}{r_h z} (1 - \epsilon'(t)). \quad (\text{F.17})$$

From eq. (F.17), $F[\sigma]$ defined in eq. (5.14) is given by

$$F[\sigma] = \frac{4\pi G}{z} \left(z \frac{1}{\partial_t^2} T_{zz} - \frac{1}{\partial_t^3} T_{tz} \right). \quad (\text{F.18})$$

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